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LD091413 [Editorial Report]

Afghanistan: Soviet Withdrawal Statement

The USSR and Afghanistan have agreed to begin the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan on 15 May 1988 and to complete this withdrawal "within 10 months," Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev announced in a statement carried by TASS. The date is based on the assumption that an agreement on a settlement will be signed by 15 March 1988, with the withdrawal commencing 60 days later. If a settlement is reached before 15 March, the withdrawal will accordingly begin earlier. Gorbachev further indicated that the USSR and Afghanistan "agree" that a "relatively greater portion" of the Soviet contingent could be withdrawn during the first phase.

Gorbachev also said that various states are involved in the withdrawal and subsequent guarantees of noninterference, noting that Iran "should not stand aside" from a political settlement. However, he maintained that the withdrawal is not linked to the completion of efforts to set up a new, coalition government in Afghanistan, stressing that the formation of a coalition government is a "purely internal Afghan issue." In conclusion, Gorbachev asserted that the settlement of the Afghan issue will have a "most profound impact" on other regional conflicts, which he called "bleeding wounds" on the body of mankind.

In Kabul, Afghan President Najibullah issued a statement broadcast by Kabul radio in which he reiterated the main points of the Soviet leader's statement and declared that he is "in full agreement" with the Soviet stand. In addition, Najibullah emphasized that the withdrawal is "directly connected" to the end of "interference" and of military support for the rebels, while at the same time maintaining that he is "sure" that the conflict "will not intensify" following the withdrawal.

Meanwhile, UN envoy Diego Cordovez announced that the next round of Geneva talks will begin 2 March, Islamabad radio reported 9 February.

Murphy Tour

SPA reported Saudi King Fahd's meeting with Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy but gave no details of their talks. The U.S. envoy held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Cairo 9 February, MENA noted.

In Israel, officials said they do not have high hopes for Murphy's impending visit, Jerusalem television noted, and sources in Yitzhaq Shamir's office stressed that the prime minister will accept no idea diverging from the Camp David Accords.

On the Arab side, Jordan's AL-DUSTUR reported that Murphy heard "clear talk" in Damascus which can be summed up as a rejection of the new U.S. proposals, which seek to present "an old drink in new bottles." This U.S. attempt is rejected first by Jordan, second by Syria, and third by all the Arabs, AL-DUSTUR said, stressing that Syria and Jordan both view the Fes Summit resolutions as the "minimum" Arab stand. Syria's view of Murphy's visit was spelled out in a Damascus radio commentary which rejected "half steps" and the "partial" nature of U.S. proposals, emphasizing that the international conference "does not need preparatory stages and incremental solutions." While noting reports that the new U.S. move refers to an international conference as part of a second stage following transitional arrangements, the radio viewed this as "two-sided" and warned that it will lead to "maneuvering and cheating" aimed at gaining time and rescuing Israel from its "plight."

Israel

West Bank, Gaza—Villagers from Kafr Qaddum, near Nabulus, stated that a Jewish settler was responsible for the killing of a Palestinian in the area 8 February, THE JERUSALEM POST reported. The settler allegedly shot the Palestinian in the head after the latter waved back the settler's vehicle. IDF sources cited by the POST stressed that no troops were in Kafr Qaddum when the incident occurred and noted that police are investigating the shooting.

In Gaza, four Palestinians were wounded by IDF fire in disturbances which followed rumors that the death of a youth from the Al-Burayj refugee camp was the result of beatings, Jerusalem radio reported. The IDF investigated the rumors but concluded that nobody from Al-Burayj was beaten by soldiers in recent days. Security forces imposed curfews on the Al-Burayj and Al-Shati' camps following the disturbances, the radio noted.

Peres on Jordanian Role—In remarks broadcast by IDF and Jerusalem radios, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres asserted that there is no reason why Israel should administer Arab towns like Nabulus and Hebron and that Jordan could do the job more effectively. Nevertheless, he stressed that the Jordan River must remain Israel's security border, which "no Arab or foreign army will cross," and that Jerusalem must remain a united city and capital of Israel. As for the U.S. initiative, Peres told Jerusalem radio that it is made up of three parts: an international opening, an interim arrangement, and a permanent arrangement. "In principle, I am in favor of all three," he added.

In another development, Jerusalem radio disclosed that the director general of the Foreign Ministry met with Jordanian officials in Brussels this week to discuss the U.S. initiative.

Jordan

Relations With PLO—Differences between Jordan and the PLO are merely a matter of "approach and interpretation" and are not fundamental, Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah stated in remarks reported by the JORDAN TIMES. It is Israel's "intransigence," not Jordanian-PLO relations, which is the main obstacle to peace, he maintained. Stressing the need for Israel and the United States to accept the call for an international conference, he said the technical details of Jordanian-PLO representation at such a conference are "an Arab issue."

Husayn in Bonn—Amman radio broadcast the text of King Husayn's address to EEC foreign ministers in which he urged Israel to participate in an international conference and also denounced Iran's "terrorist actions." In a press conference after the meeting, Husayn welcomed the new U.S. move to reactivate the peace process as a "positive development," according to DPA.

Gulf Relations With Iran

Saudi Statement on Pilgrims—In response to recent remarks by the Iranian deputy foreign minister on this year's pilgrimage, a "responsible source" told SPA that the Saudi Government has adopted a "final decision" not to allow a repetition of the "demagogic practices and sabotage" carried out by Iranians during last year's pilgrimage. The government has issued "clear orders" to the security authorities to deal "quickly and firmly" with anyone harming the sacredness of the holy places.

Kuwaiti Minister's Remarks—Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi stated that Kuwait "is not against" opening a dialogue with Iran on ending tension in the Gulf region, in remarks to the Lebanese magazine AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI reported by KUNA. According to Al-'Usaymi, Kuwait "seeks understanding" and "more normalization of relations" which would make dialogue "more viable and reasonable."

Iran-Iraq War

Three Iraqi Mirage jets were downed over Gulf waters in dogfights with Iranian fighters 9 February, IRNA reported. An Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio reported 119 Iranians killed in I Army Corps northern sector fighting, while Iraqi forces repulsed eight Iranian boats approaching an offshore jetty in the northern Gulf.

Maghreb Affairs

Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali, Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, and Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attended the ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the French air attack on the Tunisian village of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, Tunis radio reported. The radio broadcast Ben Ali's address in which he hailed progress in Tunisian-Algerian relations and also spoke of the "positive impact" of Col al-Qadhdhafi's visit to Tunisia. Extracts from the speeches by Bendjedid and Al-Qadhdhafi were also carried by the radio. The Algerian leader spoke of the need for a Maghreb bloc, urging progress toward unity on a gradual, step by step basis. Al-Qadhdhafi, whose speech was broadcast in full by Tripoli television, stressed the "inevitable necessity" of Arab unity and denounced the "hateful" U.S. "campaign" against Islam and the Arabs.

Sudan

Britain protested in "strongest terms" to the Sudanese Government over the 4 February commandeering of relief trucks bearing food to southern Sudan by the Sudanese Army, according to a London PRESS ASSOCIATION report. The 7 trucks were among the 20 provided by Britain to aid the famine-stricken area. However, a Sudanese spokesman cited by SUNA denied that the Armed Forces had seized the trucks, maintaining that there are currently "no relief organizations in the area referred to."

Inter-Arab Affairs

U.S. Veto, Peace Efforts Show 'Insensitivity'

LD071139 Algiers APS in Arabic 0900 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Algiers, 7 Feb (APS)—For 2 months the popular uprising in the occupied Palestinian territories has been continuing strongly and staunchly despite the escalating oppression aimed at stifling it. By its expansion, continuation, and consolidation, as well as through the accompanying grave sacrifices, the uprising confirms the firm commitment of the Palestinian people to snatch their legitimate national rights back from the arbitrary Zionist occupation, whose blind barbarous actions and rampaging against the unarmed inhabitants are condemned and resented by all those with a conscience.

In this atmosphere permeated with the blood of children despicably murdered with bullets or sledgehammers, the U.S. veto against the UN Security Council resolution, calling on Israel to respect the Geneva Convention on protecting civilians during time of war and calling for a just and permanent solution for the existing conflict in the Middle East, has revealed as never before Washington's injustice, bias, and unconditional support for Israel in its illegitimate practices and oppressive policies which obstruct the establishment of peace in the region.

Against the same backdrop and within this veto the real nature of the U.S. initiatives is exposed. They are merely new attempts to bargain from one side. They work in one direction, which is against the opinion supported by the overwhelming majority of the international community that calls for an international conference under UN auspices and with the participation of all concerned parties, including the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

By these actions, which are aimed at obstructing the United Nations in performing its duties and obstructing the Palestinian people in demanding their right to establish their independent state, the U.S. Administration is still erecting obstacles in order to block the only universally recognized way that could result in peace in the region.

The popular uprising, which has entered its 3d month, has shown clearly enough that it is useless to seek a settlement that does not take into consideration the Palestinian problem, which is the essence of the conflict in the Middle East. And with the situation as it is, we can measure the insensitivity of Washington's current efforts, which seek to revive the dead Camp David solution, whose signatories 10 years ago ignored this important central issue. This solution, which was imposed by force, has failed because the Palestinian issue is still alive.

Kuwait's Al-Khalid Addresses Arab Economists

LD061106 Kuwait KUNA in English 1004 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 6 (KUNA)—The 10th conference of Arab Economists Union opened here Saturday under the patronage of H.H. the Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah.

Commerce and Industry Minister Faysal al-Khalid is deputized by H.H. the Amir to patronize the conference, which is organized by Secretariat of the Arab Economic Union and the Kuwaiti Economists Society and will last until February 8th.

In an opening speech delivered to the conferees, on behalf of the amir, Al-Khalid said that this gathering is held during difficult international economic situation, citing the international debt crisis as an example.

He said that the recent sudden deterioration in the international stock markets has added a new dimension to the path of the international economy.

He explained that the economic difficulties do not include only the debt crisis or the stock markets crash but they include many problems, and directly effect Arab and developing countries in the absence of a new international economic system.

Al-Khalid noted that developing countries have always called for this economic system to correct the imbalance in economic relations between North and South.

But the issue remained in the hands of the industrial countries which keep their control over the effective economic policies worldwide.

The Kuwaiti minister said that the Arab nation is witnessing a very critical situation and is confronting political challenges in addition to the economic problems.

He cited as an example the Iraq-Iran war, which he said is still exhausting economic capabilities and achievements. He also cited the situation in occupied Palestine as another example to the challenges that obstruct a prosperous economic situation in the Arab world.

He called for unified Arab action to face such challenges, stressing that the success of an Arab economic development needs a joint Arab effort and cooperation at commercial, financial, economic and cultural levels.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on 'Uprising', Peace Efforts

JN051945 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1732 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, identified by his nom de guerre Abu 'Ammar, by Radio Monte Carlo News Director Antoine Nawfal carried within the "It Happened Tomorrow" program; date and place not given—live or recorded]

[Text] [Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, welcome to the first installment of the "It Happened Tomorrow" program following its resumption. We have invited you to this program today because the uprising is continuing and remains a major topic...

['Arafat, interrupting] It will enter its 3d month on 7 February.

[Nawfal] Is that right?

['Arafat] Yes.

[Nawfal] You have personally called for the continuation of this uprising. Do you still continue to do so?

['Arafat] I am not the only one calling for its continuation. From those at the top to the smallest child among our people it has been decided that this all-encompassing uprising, the blessed uprising, and those new generals—children, women, and men—will continue with this uprising, wave after wave until the Israeli occupation of our country ends forever, God willing.

[Nawfal] Before we return to the issue of occupation and independence, I would like to say that you talk too much about the new generals. What is the true relationship between the PLO and the people of the uprising?

['Arafat] Do you remember during the siege of Beirut, when I also called the RPG children the new generals?

[Nawfal] That is true.

['Arafat] Those who now carry sacred stones in our country with their slingshots like David—David now is the Palestinian David—these also are our new generals. They are part of this people, who have always been the first in making miracles of steadfastness in our camps in Beirut, steadfastness during the longest siege of an Arab capital, Beirut, in their camps in southern Lebanon, in Gaza, in the Galilee, in the West Bank, in the Negev, and everywhere.

[Nawfal] Do these people have a direct relationship with the PLO?

['Arafat] This is only what the press says. It asks: What is the relationship between the PLO...

[Nawfal, interrupting] It is true. Is this question being asked?

['Arafat] Of course, I hear and I read this question. I believe that those who are martyred under the PLO flag, PLO slogans... [changes thought] I feel pain and sometimes I feel proud of them when they raise my picture. I believe that they stress the dialectical relationship among all Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory. The memorandums which are presented by all our leaderships in the occupied territories to the consuls, to Mellor, to Perez de Cuellar, to Goulding, to Cossiga, and to Genscher have not stopped. These memorandums say that the PLO is the Palestinian people and that the Palestinian people are the PLO.

[Nawfal] This is very clear, Abu 'Ammar.

['Arafat] Today, too, all the Palestinian people, the Palestinian children, women, and men say that the Palestinian people are the PLO and the PLO is the Palestinian people. The statements which are also being issued by the Unified Leadership of the Uprising—we tell our brothers that there is no need to write the PLO's name on these statements. However, they have a revolutionary sense of responsibility and a noble national stand. They sometimes feel that there are some attempts to drive a wedge between the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territories, and between the leadership and its people. For these reasons they insist in all their statements, including the last one—No 6—they insist on refering to the PLO along with the Unified Leadership of the Uprising.

[Nawfal] Thus, the Unified Leadership of the Uprising is in direct contact with you and it receives orders from you?

['Arafat] I would like to say something. The most important thing is that there has never been a gap in the relationship between the PLO and its people. This is true whether in the besieged camps in Lebanon, among those who are standing fast in southern Lebanon, in the diaspora—from Australia, Canada, and Chile—and to those heroes who are standing fast in our occupied territories, in Palestine, in the Holy Land. Through their steadfastness, heroism, glory, loftiness, and pride, they are defying this Zionist-imperialist onslaught which receives unlimited support from the United States—support which it has received in the past and which it will receive in the future. The PLO is the Palestinian identity. All Palestinians these days, whether they are in Chile, Australia, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, or in Europe, feel that after they have lost their homeland and passport their true national identity and affiliation is embodied by the PLO [words indistinct] in the villages, in the camps, in all quarters, universities, and institutes. This is the PLO and this is the dialectical relationship between the Palestinians inside and outside the occupied territory.

[Nawfal] That's very obvious Abu 'Ammar. A few moments ago, and on this very radio, you said that the uprising might not limit itself to the weapon of stones alone. This is the only weapon that has been used thus far. What did you mean? Did you have in mind a true weapon of a different kind, or a political weapon?

['Arafat] First of all, I stand by what I have said. My words and warning were meant for the new butcher Rabin, who is escalating these crimes in accordance with an official Israeli decision made by the Israeli Government and Army Command. These atrocious crimes have produced further killings, the breaking of bones, and abortions for our heroic pregnant women, as well as more arrests and the vandalization of homes, mosques, and churches. I told them that they must not rely solely on a previous statement that in this uprising we will limit our weapons to stones and slings. I told them that our reaction will hinge on the escalation by the Israeli Army and the fascist, racist settlers against our people, children, and women. I want them to know that we will use weapons when the time is ripe. For now our decision is to refrain from using arms in this blessed uprising. But let them know that this will be in effect only for a limited period. The uprising has stages: the first, second, third, fourth etc. We are now in the second stage. We have in store a lot that will surprise this Nazi, fascist enemy occupying our sacred homeland of Palestine. Our struggle with them is long and protracted. We will hold out to the end.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, what you are saying is very serious indeed. In any case...

['Arafat, interrupting] They must not forget that the three recent military operations in the refinery, the military factory, and in Nahariyah, in the south, and in the Negev, are another warning that we will escalate our military operation depending on their behavior toward our kinfolk, children, and people. They know that I usually mean what I say, my Brother Antoine.

[Nawfal] A great deal is being said about the uprising, including some charges leveled against it. There have been some warnings about the uprising being taken over by the religious trend. What do you think?

['Arafat] Antoine, our churches decided to cancel the Christmas celebrations. Last Sunday it was decided to say prayers and to begin funds in every one of our churches to support besieged camps...

[Nawfal, interrupting] What you are saying speaks volumes.

['Arafat] Let me tell you something. Do you believe Radio Tehran? This is the uprising of the Palestinian people of all trends: Islamic, nationalist, pan-Arabist. It spans the political spectrum from the extreme left to the extreme right, involving people from all walks of life. I think that what my brothers and dear friends recently told an Austrian paper speaks best for unity among the Palestinian people in all their denominations and groupings. Oh, Moses! In this land are a people of exceeding strength. [Koranic verse] This occurs in the Koran about the Palestinian people. Aren't those who have experienced 3 years of siege in Sabra and Shatila part of the Palestinian people? This illustrates strong willpower. There is a decision, will, faith, and determination. We will carry on until victory, God willing. I have called it the year of glad tidings, my dear friend Antoine. Just as I called 1987 the year of hope. When did I call it so? It was when the odds were stacked against us, when the camps were under siege and being bombed in Beirut and southern Lebanon. Yet I called 1987 the year of hope. I have called this year the year of good tidings. God made it but a message of hope for you, and an assurance to your hearts. [Koranic verse]

[Nawfal] May we, Abu 'Ammar, now move on to discuss the political action and diplomatic activity being undertaken? President Mubarak and King Husayn are currently touring Europe to press for an international conference. They say that they are in agreement on the fateful Arab causes. Do you agree with them, too?

['Arafat] During my last meeting with brother President Husni Mubarak, we agreed on the importance of holding an international conference. I told him that our decision and our movement should now stem from three constants or basic principles. The first is international protection for our women and children until the removal of occupation. The second is temporary international supervision to which power will be transferred until an international conference is held and our independent state established. This will take place via an international conference at the Security Council. [no third point heard] We are discussing this with our friends among the nonaligned states. When we say international supervision, we mean the United Nations along with the nonaligned, socialist, EEC, Islamic, and African states. Contacts are now taking place, particularly in the wake of the veto. We have a plan of movement on both the political and diplomatic level. We still have the extraordinary session about which a resolution was passed at the General Assembly last year, and we are entitled to call for an extraordinary session of the UN General Assembly. We may call the General Assembly into session on the basis of united for peace [preceding three words in English], which the United States once did in the Korean war. Its resolutions on the basis of the united for peace clause have the same effect as those of the Security Council. We are also contacting the International Court of Justice and our friends in the EEC, as well as socialist, Arab, and Islamic states. All these will be discussed in the 2d week, between the 10th and 12th of this month, at the Arab foreign ministers' committee meeting. This committee stemmed from the recent Arab League Council meeting. During that meeting we will discuss all these details, God willing. In the meantime, we are contacting our friends throughout the entire world.

[Nawfal] President Mubarak proposed an initiative and you said that you would study it. Have you drawn a conclusion or taken a stand with regard to it?

['Arafat] The Americans have rejected it.

[Nawfal] That is right.

['Arafat] Both the Americans and the Israelis have rejected it, so why ...

[Nawfal, interrupting] There was then no need to study it.

['Arafat] Of course, there was no longer any need to study it, Brother Antoine.

[Nawfal] What is the overall relationship with Egypt like today? Are contacts continuing, or are they a bit lukewarm?

['Arafat] Why? A short time ago our delegation was in Cairo. Before that I met with President Mubarak. We are in touch with the brothers in Egypt with regard to most of these moves. We will hold a quick contact after President Mubarak's return from the United States in order to understand the dimensions of the Egyptian-U.S. talks.

[Nawfal] Will there be personal contact between you and President Mubarak?

['Arafat] You know that there is no barrier between us. I met with him in Baghdad prior to his departure for the United States.

[Nawfal] To what point have relations with Jordan reached?

['Arafat] Our delegation, as you know, has returned from Jordan after holding intensive talks with a Jordanian delegation. Our delegation was led by my Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], while the Jordanian delegation was led by Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. We agreed to continue talks later in light of the developments that might occur on the Arab and international levels.

[Nawfal] But the two delegations have thus far not achieved any tangible result.

['Arafat] Don't forget that Jordan is participating in the seven-member committee.

[Nawfal] That is right.

['Arafat] Syria is also participating in the seven-member committee.

[Nawfal] All are currently calling for an international peace conference. But deep down do you agree with King Husayn, President Mubarak, and President al-Asad on a certain formula?

['Arafat] No, by God. What I heard at the Arab summit in Amman was that there was a Syrian-Jordanian agreement, which was announced by King Husayn, on the way to participate in the international conference. This agreement was reached at the closed session. I asked them: Can we know about the agreement between you so that the Arab nation might accept it, reject it, or abide by it? They promised, but the subject was not discussed again.

[Nawfal] At any rate, Murphy will visit the Middle East soon, apparently to encourage direct talks.

['Arafat] You mean new shuttle diplomacy instead of what Al-Sadat used to say: Dear Kissinger.

[Nawfa] But direct talks.

['Arafat] You must understand one thing. Our people are now determining the new political map for the Arab region. No peace, security, stability, or solution will be reached by side-stepping the Palestinian people's inalienable national rights, including their right to return, self-determination, and the establishment of their independent Palestinian state on their national Palestinian soil with Jerusalem as its capital. They see it as far away, but we see it as near. We are true. We still have many tricks up our sleeves.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, is there any possibility of direct contacts or negotiations between the Palestinians and Israel, under certain conditions, of course?

['Arafat] Our contacts are only with the democratic and progressive forces and also the Peace Now Movement which recognize our rights, including the right of establishing our independent state and the right to self-determination for the Palestinian people. However, we have no contact with this military gang, whose hands are soaked with the blood of our people.

[Nawfal] However, it is being said that the PLO might under certain conditions open a dialogue with Shamir. Is this possible?

['Arafat] I am not like Begin. During the siege of Beirut, Begin refused to even mention my name. If the representatives of the PLO go to the international conference along with the Syrians, Jordanians, Lebanese, or Egyptians, we would of course talk with our enemies, if we are to hold an international conference and conclude agreements. If there is a dispute between us and another Arab party, we will go to the Arab League. However, at the international conference, under the aegis of the United Nations, we will be talking with our enemies, not our friends.

[Nawfal] This is a personal question. Who is better to talk with, Shamir or Peres?

['Arafat] Do you think I am one of those who are deceived and think that there is a difference between Shamir and Peres?

[Nawfal] Is there not any difference?

['Arafat] There is no difference. Both use the iron-fist policy, although by different methods. Now, God be praised, they have been exposed.

[Nawfal] Yet their political goals are different.

['Arafat] You must not forget that the price of these different political goals is paid by the Palestinian people. Do not forget that the one who makes the decisions now is Prime Minister Shamir, and the one implementing these decisions is the new murderer Rabin, who is from the Labor Party. The decision, whether taken unanimously or by a majority vote in the cabinet... [changes thought] I know that the decision is taken by a majority vote, because, for instance, Weizman did not approve the decision to use the iron-fist policy, murder, and terrorism against our people. The decision was made in a cabinet made up of several Israeli parties.

[Nawfal] Let us return to the relations with the Arab states. At one time efforts were made to achieve a rapprochement between you and Damascus. Where are these efforts today?

['Arafat] First, you must know one thing, Antoine. It is true that my Brother Nabih Birri took the initiative of lifting the siege on the camps, but it was no doubt with the blessing and approval of the brothers in Damascus. I was told later by my brother President Chedli Bendjedid that what was happening was pursuant to what was agreed on among the three of us—between me and brother President Chedli Bendjedid and between me and brother President Hafiz al-Asad at a brief meeting in the lobbies of the Amman summit when we talked about the tragedy of the camps war.

[Nawfal] So a meeting took place between you and President Al-Asad in the lobbies of the Amman summit?

['Arafat] Yes, this is common knowledge.

[Nawfal] The strange thing is while you do not agree with Damascus on many things, you seem to agree with Moscow. Yet, Moscow agrees with Damascus. Why this incomplete triangle?

['Arafat] You should ask Damascus. Why do you ask me, Antoine?

[Nawfal] How about the relationship with the USSR?

['Arafat] We have made a decision in the PNC to turn a new page in our relations with our brothers in Syria. We thank them for what they have done so far. I am ready to follow up on these relations. You see, in the long run, I have been elected on the basis of a political program. This political program calls for turning a new page in Syrian-Palestinian relations. Therefore, I am always ready to make this effort. I hope that my brothers in Damascus are equally ready.

[Nawfal] Then, Nabih Birri's initiative renews hopes for good relations with Damascus.

['Arafat] No doubt, and I thank Nabih for that.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, French President Francois Mitterrand yesterday said that it was France, along with the Soviet Union, that took the initiative to call for an international conference. The French president said verbatim: The West Bank and Gaza Strip incidents indicate the need to give a new hope in a just solution to all the region's peoples. Consequently, work should continue despite difficulties in order to hold an international peace conference. Is Abu 'Ammar satisfied with this French position the French president took after he had met with President Mubarak and King Husayn?

['Arafat] I read this statement. I consider it an important one and greatly appreciate it, particularly as he spoke about the importance of finding a just and quick solution and called for holding an international conference as soon as possible to resolve the Palestinian people's problem and the Middle East question. We hope that France and President Mitterrand will exert further efforts in support of Palestinian rights, particularly the right to self-determination. I know that the French stand is ahead of the EEC states' stand regarding the right to self-determination and the PLO's participation when they talked for the first time about patrie [preceding word in French as heard], that is, a homeland for the Palestinians. Therefore, I greatly appreciate this new but old stand by President Mitterrand. Moreover, do not forget that President Mitterrand and Comrade Gorbachev agreed on this subject and on the preparatory committee for the international conference in the summer of 1986.

[Nawfal] Abu 'Ammar, I think we have dealt with many aspects of the uprising. One last question. You are calling for the continuation of the uprising. A number of people are killed or wounded everyday. What hope do you have that this uprising will continue until victory, as you say?

['Arafat] The road of martyrs is a road strewn with flowers leading to paradise. I would like to remind you that during the 1st week of the siege imposed on me in Beirut in 1982, I received an offer to leave carrying a white flag in the International Red Cross cars. What did I say? I said: I refuse because I can smell paradise. The smell of paradise is blowing in the wind. We fought the longest Arab-Israeli war for 88 days against the largest

Israeli-American force in the Middle East. We continued that war later together with our Lebanese allies in the most successful war of attrition in southern Lebanon and these wars are still going on. Do you get the point?

[Nawfal] Yes.

['Arafat] The one who wants his homeland must sacrifice for it. We know that Palestine was lost at the cheapest price through treason, negligence, or inability. We know that in order to regain it is to pave every inch of the way with a martyr or a wounded person, and our people are always ready to sacrifice many martyrs. Never have the families of the martyrs told me enough, Abu 'Ammar. Once I went to console a woman over her fourth martyred son. She told me: Abu 'Ammar, I still have one son and four daughters. Take three daughters and leave me one son and one daughter. These are our people, the people of miracles, the people of martyrs, the people of the Golgotha road, and the people of the Holy Land. This land is the land of prophets and messengers and the land of martyrs and sacrifices. We will continue along this path until victory, until victory, until victory.

[Nawfal] Thank you, Abu 'Ammar.

'Arafat Appeals to Amnesty International

LD052138 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] appealed to Amnesty International to support the voyage of the peace ship which will carry 125 Palestinians to their homeland, Palestine, after they had been deported by the Zionist authorities from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

A responsible Palestinian source stated that Brother Abu 'Ammar, in his message to the secretary general of Amnesty International—an organization concerned about human rights—had expressed his confidence that the international organization will not shy away from supporting the right of those deported to return to their homeland.

Brother Abu 'Ammar also expressed his hope that the intenational organization will exert its effective influence in order to secure a safe conduct for the ship to Haifa.

In his message, Brother Abu 'Ammar pointed out that this voyage comes within the right of the Palestinians to live in their homeland and in accordance with the UN Security Council's resolutions and international treaties, at the forefront of which is the 1949 Geneva Charter for protecting the civilians under occupation during war, and the UN Security Council Resolutions 605, 607 and 608.

He pointed out that the ship will stop over in Larnaca and Port Said before sailing to Haifa.

Official Denies Israeli Paper Report on Truce

JN081009 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Bassam Abu Sharif, information adviser to the PLO Executive Committee chairman, has stated that in answer to some questions posed to him in a telephone interview with the Israeli paper YEDI'OT AHARONOT, he said verbatim: Ending the occupation and enabling the Palestinian people to exercise self-determination and establish an independent state is the one condition for ending the resistance.

Bassam Abu Sharif was correcting what was published today by YEDI'OT AHARONOT that the PLO is prepared to give instructions to the Palestinians in the occupied territory to observe a truce if the Israeli defense minister ordered his soldiers to stop firing.

Bassam Abu Sharif said the newspaper had misrepresented his interview. He affirmed that when asked about an end to shooting he replied: We do not trust Yitzhaq Rabin or the Israeli Government which in 1981 violated the cease-fire arranged by the U.S. envoy Philip Habib in Lebanon.

PLO Says No Direct Negotiations With Israel

LD081323 Tunis TAP in Arabic 1235 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tunis, 8 Feb (TAP)—The PLO has categorically denied that it had said it was ready to enter into direct negotiations with Israel. This denial came when a PLO spokesman was commenting on claims by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres during a meeting of the Israeli Labor Party's Foreign and Security Committee.

In a statement issued in Tunis today, the spokesman added that the PLO challenges Peres to prove that it made any such proposal to the Zionist clique. He pointed out that the Israeli leadership has tirelessly offered, since the uprising of the Palestinian masses against the Zionist machine of war and destruction, several proposals and enticements which have all been rejected by the Palestinian leadership.

The spokesman pointed out that such well-calculated lies are aimed at influencing Jordan to become involved in the conspiracies aimed at enticing some Arab sides to fall for its tricks, as well as to contain the uprising of the Palestinian people and its overwhelming repercussions which have revealed the Zionist invaders-occupiers to be criminal assassins and new Nazis in the eyes of the world.

Khalaf on Acceptance of Resolution 242

JN081855 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Feb 88 pp 1, 8

[By Basimah Nafadi]

[Text] Tunis—Salah Khalaf [Abu Iyad], the second in command in the Fatah Movement, has stressed that the PLO is prepared to accept Resolution 242 if it is modified by adding the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

In a statement to AL-ITTIHAD, he added that Jordan had agreed to this modification during the recent Jordanian-Palestinian talks in Amman, which concentrated on self-determination as a basis for any forthcoming negotiations.

Abu Iyad stressed that during the talks, the Palestinian delegation had adhered to its position and insisted on rejecting Resolution 242 in isolation from other international resolutions, pointing out that this will be the basis of a forthcoming Arab move in the international arena through the seven-member Arab committee formed by the recent Arab foreign ministers meeting in Tunis.

Abu Iyad condemned the U.S. position and latest veto, emphasizing that the development and continuation of the Palestinian struggle will force the United States, and consequently Israel, to change their policies.

Abu Iyad described the current political initiatives, the latest of which came from U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, as being aimed at aborting the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied territories and stripping it of any political gain.

He indicated that all of the proposed Arab, international, and U.S. initiatives serve Israel and are aimed at ending the uprising in the occupied territories.

Questioned by Al-ITTIHAD on the reported coordination between Peres and Shamir and contacts with Washington, Jordan, and Egypt regarding the so-called Shultz initiative, Abu Iyad said: I believe the entire U.S.-Israeli coordination does not depart from one united position; it is an attempt to abort the uprising through political activity that carries no solution. Therefore, the moves by Philip Habib, Murphy, and other U.S. envoys, and even by Secretary of State Shultz himself do not, in my opinion, serve any purpose but to end the uprising, absorb its events, and circumvent it. He added that Israel agreed to all proposed initiatives through direct contacts.

Regarding the Soviet initiative, Abu Iyad said Moscow proposed only one specific point—to call for a Security Council session on the foreign ministers' level to discuss the crux of the issue. Washington has thus far not supported this proposal and Europe has not announced its decision, he added.

In conclusion, Abu Iyad stressed that the uprising is led by the basic PLO factions in the occupied territories, refuting allegations attempting to separate the PLO from the popular revolution in the occupied territories. He pointed out that ending the Israeli occupation of territories and placing international observers as a prelude to a solution through an international conference represents the demands of the Palestinian revolution in the occupied territories and those of its leadership outside these territories.

PLO's Al-Hurani Comments on Talks With Egypt

PM051635 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
26 Jan 88 p 8

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Member 'Abdallah al-Hurani by Mahmud Bakri; date and place not given]

[Text] [Bakri] Just a few weeks ago a Palestinian delegation headed by Brother Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] which you were a member of held intensive talks with Egyptian officials. What were the main points agreed upon during the talks?

[Al-Hurani] Our delegation's previous visit to Cairo was on the basis of a decision by the PLO Executive Committee to form a delegation for talks with the Egyptian brothers to develop, strengthen, and establish relations on the best footing. In fact, we discussed all the political relations, coordination, and political consultations between us and the Egyptian brothers. The most important points we arrived at in this regard are: First, consultations and coordination should continue between us and the Egyptian brothers. Second, consultations and coordination should not be restricted to our brothers in Egypt. Instead, they encouraged us to establish stronger relations with our brothers in the Arab world, such as Jordan. Third, we agreed that any dispute on any of the points must not lead to a rupture in relations. Fourth, we also agreed on the need to unify channels of communication so as to reach agreement on various issues.

[Bakri] What new developments prompted the new round of talks?

[Al-Hurani] Perhaps our talks today stem from the fact that the developments of the heroic uprising are new and need to be discussed with the Egyptian brothers. We need to discuss the effects of the uprising on international public opinion, what it could lead to, and how to exploit this effect with regard to the Security Council resolutions in which the U.S. position differed from its previous positions. Also at the level of President Mubarak's expected trip to the United States and Western Europe, I would like to say that we consider all these matters to be part of the new developments that necessitate consultations with the brothers in Egypt.

[Bakri] There has recently been increasing talk about the idea of a Palestinian government-in-exile. Have any contacts taken place between the PLO and the Egyptian Government in this regard?

[Al-Hurani] Frankly, no contacts have taken place in this regard with our brothers in Egypt. Also, as far as I know, no discussion of the matter has taken place with our brothers in Egypt, and I say that in my capacity as PLO Executive Committee member. However, for some brothers who may have brought up such a subject,

Egyptian-Palestinian relations are firm. As for the Executive Committee, it has not made any official decision regarding a government in exile.

[Bakri] Do you think that the official Egyptian position on the heroic Palestinian people's uprising inside the occupied Arab territories, which has not gone beyond protests and threats to the Israeli side, has had any effect in deterring the Israeli side from pursuing its repressive operations against our people in the occupied territories?

[Al-Hurani] In general, the Israeli position on violence and its continued use has not changed; Israel is still continuing the violence and using new methods in confronting our Palestinian people. The latest reports talk about bringing experts on methods of repression from South Africa. Consequently, I cannot say that a change in the Israeli position has occurred. Instead, Israel has defied international public opinion and the UN Security Council, and it has defied its principal ally, the United States.

[Bakri] It has been said that the PLO asked Egypt to sever its relations with the Zionist entity as a response to Israeli arbitrariness towards the Arab citizens inside the occupied Arab territories. How true is that?

[Al-Hurani] Frankly, the PLO does not interfere in anything touching on Egypt's sovereignty and Egypt's relations. However, at the same time, the PLO understands what Egypt understands it has to do, and Egypt can make its position a more effective influence.

Habash Commends Kuwaiti Support for 'Uprising'

LD081323 Kuwait KUNA in English 1236 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 8 (KUNA)—Secretary General of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) George Habash commended Kuwait's supportive stance for the three-month-old Palestinian uprising, hoping that the Kuwaiti stance would be taken as model by other Arab countries.

In a telephone interview with KUNA from Damascus, Habash expressed his appreciation saying that the Kuwaiti reaction "reassures our people that they are not alone in the confrontation against Zionism."

In the meantime, Habash said that "nobody owns the right to end the Palestinian uprising or holds the right to make truce with the Israeli enemy" except the unified leadership of Palestinians inside the occupied territories.

Any interference from outside, he told KUNA, "would damage the uprising," which was ignited by 40 years of continued oppression and unfair treatment by occupation forces.

The uprising, in its third month now, started on December 8 by random strikes and unorganized demonstrations. Two weeks after that, local Palestinian groups began to carry on the uprising using small committees to coordinate activities and organize the upheaval to make it more effective.

The remarks by Habash were in response to an earlier report by an Israeli newspaper quoting a senior Palestinian source close to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat saying that the PLO might consider making a truce with Israel on the uprising if Israel stops firing at unarmed Palestinians.

The Palestinian source, the informatin counselor to 'Arafat, later said the paper misrepresented his statements, noting that he told the paper that the condition is to withdraw from the occupied territories.

Asked about the "ship of return," which will sail Wednesday from Greece to Haira in Israel, Habash said that his organization supported the idea and the Executive Committee of the PLO made the decision.

The ship will carry over 100 Palestinians who have been deported from Palestine by Israeli authorities. It will peacefully attempt to enter the port of Haifa and unboard the passengers. Israel, however, will resist the move and block the ship's path.

Habash was also asked about the tour by Richard Murphy, the senior American diplomat responsible for Middle East affairs.

Habash expressed anger and dismay over the purpose of the trip, which has included so far Syria and Saudi Arabia, and later Egypt and Israel.

"After the U.S used its veto against a resolution condemning Israel, reception of Murphy by an Arab regime is a cause for regret," the PFLP leader said.

He added that Murphy himself will find out no party can play a role in aborting the Palestinian uprising.

"The uprising is characterised by its inclusion of all segments of the Palestinian people and various ideologies in addition to the Arabs from the 1948 occupied territories," he concluded.

PFLP's Habash Address Encourages Resistance

NC081405 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 8 Feb 88

["Appeal" by PFLP Secretary General George Habash "to the sons of occupied Palestine" on 8 February; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] O masses of our heroic people throughout Palestine; great strugglers of the valiant popular uprising, our workers, students, peasants, and mechants; to all of

you who have gone on strike rather than work for the Zionist enemy; to the child stone-throwers, the men of today and tomorrow; to the mothers and sisters who have confronted the enemy soldiers. I salute you in reverence and gratitude for your honorable struggle and heroic confrontation of the invaders occupying our land. In defense of the homeland, you defy the Israeli oppressive measures aimed at breaking your will and determination to continue the resistance until your goals are achieved.

Hurrah to you, to the stone-throwing children of today, men of tomorrow. I applaud the hands and the fists rising with anger against the enemy. I applaud the great uprising that has written in letters of fire the history of radical transformation in the course of our national struggle against the occupation and its designs and practices.

The uprising has firmly restored the facts of Arab-Zionist conflict to the forefront, shaken the enemy's spirits, and imposed its logic and effects on the course of events. The uprising shows clearly that our people in the occupied territories have decided to settle their accounts with the usurping enemy on their own. Our people have decided to take the initiative and to hold aloft the banner of freedom and independence, the banner of national unity under the leadership of their sole legitimate representative, the PLO. They are not intimidated by the policy of the iron fist, the bone-breaking beatings, or the military blockade of the camps and the prevention of food and medical supplies from entering the camps of the revolution. [passage omitted]

O heroes of the popular uprising, your glorious and historic actions have become our people's single recourse in resisting occupation and in seeking their legitimate goals of return to the homeland, self-determination, and an independent state.

The uprising has opened the door for new possibilities. Let us muster all the resources and will at our disposal to make the uprising continue and even gain in further momentum until more victories are achieved. This is a great time for our people. What we have at hand is an eruption of popular will, which can sweep along with it all the notorious designs and initiatives; which can drive into oblivion the autonomy plan and similar suspicious schemes; which can defeat anyone who thinks he can overlook the national rights of the Palestinians as upheld by the uprising and by the PLO and its political pogram. [passage omitted]

Hawatimah on Soviet Proposal for 'Uprising'

LD081501 Kuwait KUNA in English 1338 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb 8 (KUNA)—The Soviet Union will present a "very important" proposal on the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli occupied territories, a prominent Palestinian leader was quoted as saying today.

The proposal will be announced within the next "few days", Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, told AL-ITTIHAD newspaper. Hawatimah, currently in Moscow, declined to elaborate on the scheme, the paper said.

At least 48 Palestinians have been shot by Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank and Gaza since an anti-Israeli uprising erupted on December 9.

Algeria

Minister Interviewed on Maghreb Issues

PM081115 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 30 Jan 88 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Culture and Tourism Minister Boualem Bessaieh by Salih Zaytun in Doha; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Zaytun] The situation in the Arab Maghreb depends to a large extent on the future of the Sahara and the results of the international fact-finding mission to the Sahara, which seek to put an end to the latest Arab bloodshed at the far end of the Maghreb. Is it likely that international mediation will succeed in settling this conflict?

[Bessaieh] I am of the opinion that the United Nations' concern over the Sahara issue and the sending of an international mission to deal with it indicate the existence of a problem and that there is a need to search for a way to reach a settlement.

[Zaytun] Do you think that this mission is a candidate for success?

[Bessaieh] Better to ask the UN secretary general whether the mission is destined for success or failure. Personally, I believe that the matter basically hinges on the desire of the two conflicting sides to open a dialogue. One can say that in the event of a dialogue, Algeria will do its utmost to assist the warring sides to find a peaceful settlement because it has proceeded in this matter on the basis of the principles of freedom and the right of nations to self-determination. Moreover, it has nothing to do with the conflict. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] Do you think that this problem is still preventing a meeting between Algeria and Morocco to settle the disputes between them?

[Bessaieh] There is no problem between us and Morocco, and we have no objection to an Algerian-Moroccan meeting. On his visit to London King Hassan II said the same as I am telling you now. Consequently, we have the utmost respect for our brothers in Morocco, headed by his majesty the king. All that we want is for Morocco to regain its calm and tranquility so that we can build a united and integrated Maghreb, as with the GCC.

[Zaytun] Do you think that the idea of a united Arab Maghreb can be carried out?

[Bessaieh] If the Sahara war were to end, you might be surprised and astonished by the speed of developments; we would proceed toward the realization of unity quicker than many imagine.

[Zaytun] Talk about the Arab Maghreb continues. There is the change which took place in Tunisia. What is your position in Algeria concerning it? Do you expect this change to contribute to quickening progress toward building a united Maghreb?

[Bessaieh] What has occurred in Tunisia concerns the Tunisians first and foremost. But, by virtue of the factors of brotherhood and proximity, the president, government, and people of Algeria are very much concerned with Tunisia's welfare and stability. All indications are that what has taken place in Tunisia is in the interests of Tunisia's welfare and stability, and we are very optimistic about the change in Tunisia. There are ongoing contacts with the Tunisian brothers and we expect the joint cooperation between us to make giant strides. Furthermore, we hope that the cooperation and accord agreement signed between us, which later included Mauritania, will constitute a proper basis and a natural framework to build a united Maghreb infused with confidence, brotherhood, and the desire for fruitful and honest cooperation. [passage omitted]

[Zaytun] On the basis of Algeria's mediation role between the Arab brothers, can we hope that it might play a bigger role in removing the huge obstacles which stand in the way of a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation?

[Bessaieh] Our relations with the Syrian brothers are strong and solid because Syria is considered a shield in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy. Furthermore, we have an enduring and immutable link with the Palestinian brothers. As we acted to restore national unity to the Palestinian factions, so we are continuing in our efforts to breed confidence between Syria and the PLO.

[Zaytun] Is there any practical evidence in this regard?

[Bessaieh] All I can say is that there are positive indications despite the great intricacy of the issues. All the observers and leaders of the Arab states at the Amman emergency summit acknowledged the Algerian role and what was done by President Chedli Bendjedid to make the conference a success.

[Zaytun] It has been mentioned in this regard that President Bendjedid suggested to President Hafiz al-Asad that he might visit Syria accompanied in the plane by Yasir 'Arafat. How true is that?

[Bessaieh] I have no knowledge about that. What I do know about President Bendjedid is that it is not in his nature to take risks. He only moves when two preconditions exist. The first is that it is required of him, and the second is that he feels the chances of success are good. I believe that it is difficult for him to enter into such a risky venture. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Murphy in Cairo 9 Feb

NC091003 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, at the Presidential Palace at noon today. Murphy arrived in Cairo this morning. He is visiting Egypt as part of a tour of several countries in the region. Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Frank Wisner, U.S. ambassador in Cairo, also attended the meeting.

Bahraini Heir Apparent, Delegation Arrive

NC061214 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, arrived in Cairo at noon today for a 3-day official visit to Egypt at the invitation of Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, who received him at the airport. [passage omitted]

On his arrival, Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah stated that his visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt reaffirms the fraternal and amicable relations between Egypt and Bahrain and the profound and eternal bonds that have linked them over the years. [passage omitted]

He further said that he appreciates and takes pride in Egypt's Arab policy under the leadership of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. He asserted that President Mubarak has demonstrated through his nationalist attitudes the credibility of Egypt's pan-Arab policy at this critical stage in the Arab nation's history, noting that this policy proceeds from President Mubarak's sense of national duty. [passage omitted]

Official Talks Begin

NC061829 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Bahrain commenced in the Al-'Urubah Palace this evening. They are being chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces.

The Egyptian delegation to the talks comprises Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Muhammad Safwat al-Sharif, minister of information; Dr 'Adil 'Izz, minister of state for scientific research; Dr Raghib Duwaydar, minister of health; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy and foreign trade; Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation; Dr 'Abd al-Ahad Jamal al-Din, chairman of the Higher Council of Youth and Sports; Ambassador Ahmad Hatatah, assistant foreign minister; Ambassador Husayn al-Kamil, head of the Foreign Ministry's Arab Department; and Ambassadors Nabil Hilmi and Ra'uf Ghunaym of the Prime Minister's Office for Political Affairs.

The Bahraini delegation is made up of Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah; Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad; Yusuf Rahmah al-Dusari, chief of the Amiri Court; Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad al Khalifah, chairman of the general establishment of youths and sports; Shaykh Khalid ibn Ahmad al Khalifah, head of the heir apparent's office; and Bahrain's Ambassador in Cairo Muhammad Hamad al-Mahmid.

Al-Sharif on Talks

NC062031 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Official talks between Egypt and Bahrain began in the Al-Tahirah Palace [as heard] in Cairo this evening. The talks were chaired by Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces.

Following the talks between Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the Bahraini heir apparent, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif made the following statement:

[Begin recording] At the joint meeting between the two delegations, the Bahraini heir apparent stressed the historical and fraternal relations that link Egypt and the fraternal state of Bahrain. He also praised the friendly relations between President Mubarak and Bahraini Amir Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah. The heir apparent noted that he was eager to visit Egypt at the head of a high-level delegation, in order to develop and promote bilateral relations and to coordinate stands toward Arab issues. He stressed the importance of expanding and developing political, economic, security, educational, cultural, and information relations. The heir apparent praised the restoration of Arab harmony, and Egypt's role in strengthening the Arab ranks and supporting the rights of Arabs and the causes of the Arab nation. He noted the positive results of President Mubarak's visits to Bahrain and to the Arab Gulf states, as well as the importance of maintaining joint action. The Bahraini heir apparent added that such a goal requires means and a mechanism, such as a working team comprising members from both countries that would be established to follow up the progress of agreements and protocols in all areas. He affirmed that increased bilateral links will benefit the Arab nation as a whole.

He referred to the cultural relations between the two countries, praising what has been achieved recently in this respect and the media in both countries for their role in promoting the conscience of the Arab people. The Bahraini heir apparent also stressed the importance of cooperating in the affairs of young people, and lauded the fine standard of Egyptian workers and experts in all spheres.

The Bahraini heir apparent will resume his talks with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah tomorrow morning. It should be noted that the heir apparent's visit to Egypt is the first by a Bahraini defense minister.

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi began the meeting by welcoming the heir apparent and praising this visit, which reflects the profound ties between the two fraternal countries and the sound friendly feelings between the two countries' leaders, Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah and his brother, President Muhammad Husni Mubarak.

The prime minister affirmed Egypt's desire to utilize this visit as a means to review the progress of bilateral relations in all fields, especially in the political, economic, military, cultural, information, educational, sports, youth, and health areas. Sidqi also expressed his hope that this cooperation would include other aspects such as trade, transportation, and investment. [end recording]

Bahrain's Al-Mu'ayyad Comments

NC062135 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad, a member of the delegation accompanying the Bahraini heir apparent, has said that the talks between Dr 'Atif Sidqi and the Bahraini heir apparent had dealt with the Iraq-Iran war, its impact on the countries of the region, and the need for a unified Arab stand toward that war.

He added that the talks also had focused on the Middle East issue, as well as on developments in the occupied Arab territories. The two countries, he said, had stressed the need to back the moves aimed at resoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights and establishing a durable peace in the Middle East.

Meets With Abu Ghazalah

NC071017 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0955 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, received in his office this morning Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, who is visiting Cairo.

They discussed ways of promoting bilateral cooperation, particularly in the military field. [passage omitted]

Al Khalifah Comments on Visit

NC071525 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Kahlifah, Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, has said that he had discussed with Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and minister of defense and war production, several issues pertaining to bilateral cooperation. He added that the talks also covered all matters concerning the Arab nation, with the Iraq-Iran war topping the agenda.

Following his visit to the Saqr factory, Shaykh Hamad expressed his hope that dialogue and meetings would continue to achieve further understanding and cooperation.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Industrialization Organization, stated that the visit had left the heir apparent and his delegation with a good impression. He added that the visit had also demonstrated the potential of Egyptian workers and engineers and the capabilities of the Arab Industrialization Organization and that Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa had shown interest in numerous products. General al-'Urabi concluded by saying that a number of Bahraini officers will visit Egypt to acquaint themselves with this organization and its products.

Foreign Ministers Confer 8 Feb

NC081033 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today met with Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn Mubarak al Khalifah, who is currently visiting Egypt. During the meeting, they reviewed developments in the Arab region and bilateral relations.

Bahrain's Minister Comments

NC081127 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah has stressed that the efforts President Mubarak has exerted to activate the peace process will contribute toward resolving the current Arab issues. He said that Bahrain welcomes President Mubarak's efforts for his Arab nation's issues, and that it constantly coordinates with Egypt to achieve a collective Arab approach.

In an exclusive statement to our correspondent following his talks today with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Al Khalifah said that the talks were held in a fraternal and amicable atmosphere and dealt with bilateral relations. He noted that the Bahraini delegation stressed the country's determination to work with Egypt toward political coordination. He further said that they also discussed pan-Arab issues, particularly the current developments in the Middle East issue and the Palestinian cause in light of President Mubarak's recent moves to boost peace efforts.

Mubarak Phones Bahrain's Amir

NC081605 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak made a telephone call to Bahraini Amir His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah during his meeting today with the Bahraini heir apparent, his highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah.

Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that President Mubarak's talks with the Bahraini heir apparent dealt with the situation in the Middle East, the Gulf war, and bilateral relations. He noted that the talks had revealed his highness the heir apparent's support for the Egyptian stands and peace initiatives, as well as all efforts to achieve a just solution for the Palestinian issue. President Mubarak has sent a message to Bahrain's Amir, his highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah. [passage omitted]

Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has stated that with respect to investments between Egypt and Bahrain, it was agreed taht trade and economic delegations would exchange visits in a bid to promote and strengthen bilateral trade and study markets in both countries. He added that agreement had also been reached to promote and accelerate bilateral trade, encourage Egyptian exports to Bahraini markets, and promote Bahraini investments in Egypt. His highness the heir apparent promised to arrange for a visit to Egypt by the chairman of the Gulf Investment Company to discuss investment prospects for some projects in Egypt. [passage omitted]

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today hosted a luncheon in honor of the Bahraini heir apparent and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

Omani Interior Minister Arrives for Visit 9 Feb

NC090728 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0635 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 9 Feb (MENA)—Omani Interior Minister Shaykh Badr ibn Su'ud al Bu Sa'id arrived in Cairo from the Sultanate of Oman early this morning. During his 3-day visit to Egypt, he will participate in the celebrations marking Police Day.

The Omani guest will also attend the 3-day security seminar to be held at the Police Academy. President Husni Mubarak will attend the inaugural session and deliver an important speech. Ministers from 18 Arab states will participate in the seminar's activities.

The Interior Ministry has prepared a program for Arab foreign ministers and delegations, including practical police demonstrations and parades, and visits to tourist and archeological sites in Egypt.

Awqaf Minister Returns From Saudi Arabia 7 Feb

NC071345 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 7 Feb (MENA)—Minister of Awqaf Dr Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub returned to Cairo from Jeddah at noon today after a week-long visit to Saudi Arabia. [passage omitted]

Trade Federation Will Not Attend Libya Meeting

NC081144 Cairo MENA in English 1135 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, Feb 8 (MENA)—The Egyptian Federation of Trade Unions decided today not rpt not to take part in meetings of the general congress of the Organization of African Trade Union Council due to be held in April in Tripoli, Libya.

This apology came in reply to the invitation the Federation has received from the chairmanship of the organization in Accra as the trade unions relations between Egypt and Libya are severed.

Libya had opposed the organization's resolution to convene its conference in Cairo last May and abstained to take part in the conference.

The Egyptian Trade Unions Federation is the founder of the Organization of African Trade Union Council in 1973 and is the deputy chairman of the organization.

'Abd al-Majid Meets Visiting French Delegation

NC081340 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that Egypt attaches great importance to the need for France and the EC countries to play an effective role in giving momentum to the peace process, achieving a just solution to the Palestinian issue, and bringing the Israeli oppressive measures in the occupied territories to an end.

The above statement was made in a meeting between Dr 'Abd al-Majid and members of the Egyptian-French friendship delegation currently visiting Cairo under the leadership of (Andre Bilaf). Dr 'Abd al-Majid explained the results of President Husni Mubarak's tour of a number of European countries, the United States, and

Morocco. He also outlined the dimensions of Egyptian policy, which is aimed at achieving peace, stability, and development. The members of the delegation emphasized France's support for Egypt's endeavors to achieve peace in the Middle East.

'Ubayd Views Economic Results of Mubarak Tour

NC060814 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0634 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister for cabinet affairs and minister of state for administrative development, has affirmed that President Husni Mubarak's tour of the United States and Europe has achieved important economic results.

Dr 'Ubayd, who was a member of the official delegation that accompanied President Mubarak on his tour, said that agreement has been reached with the United States providing for the flexible use of $500 million of the U.S. aid to Egypt. In addition, the sum of $150 million has been allocated to finance an electric power plant in Damietta, and $100 million to the introduction of technological methods into agriculture, industry, and energy.

In an interview with the newspaper AKHBAR AL-YAWM published today, Dr 'Atif 'Ubayd added that agreement has also been reached with France to expedite the implementation of the green belt project around Cairo and to construct small sanitary drainage units in the city.

Dr 'Ubayd told AKHBAR AL-YAWM that negotiations are continuing between Egypt and the IMF on the issue of unifying foreign currency exchange rates. He said it is not true that Egypt has not paid the installments which are due, and also denied that the IMF has refused to make further loan payments.

He said that the date of the next loan payment comes after the first IMF revision, which is currently underway. He explained that it is not true to say that Egypt has not paid the installments which are due because the existing agreement provides for the debts to be rescheduled until next June.

He stressed that there is no dispute between Egypt and the IMF, explaining that the issue is one of viewpoints. He added that, for instance, we have reached agreement with the IMF to draw up a timetable for unifying foreign exchange rates. The IMF wants us to draw up this timetable as soon as possible, but we cannot do so without proper research. He noted that such research is being carried out.

Dr 'Ubayd told AKHBAR AL-YAWM that the military debt to the United States was not discussed during President Mubarak's visit. We have 4 years to discuss the repayment, he said. He explained that the U.S. Congress promulgated a law 1 month ago enabling debtor countries to borrow from banks in order to repay their military debts if they find the interest rates of commercial banks lower than those specified for the original debt. He added that the U.S. Congress has allowed every country with a military debt 4 years in which to make this decision. He said that the U.S. Treasury Department will publish the regulations pertaining to this law within 90 days. Thus, he stated, we will have 4 years to study the regulations and make a decision on adopting the best course, either to leave the debt as it is or to resort to the commerical banks.

Dr 'Ubayd declared that Egypt has temporarily abandoned the project to build a nuclear power reactor. He also asserted that the allegations made by some people about administrative obstacles to investment projects are mere exaggerations.

General Al-'Urabi on Weapons Manufacture

NC061651 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Feb (MENA)—Lieutenant General Ibrahim al-'Urabi, chairman of the Arab Industrialization Organization, has affirmed the capability of Egypt's military industries to meet the needs of the Arab countries, and especially of the GCC states, with regard to various weapons systems.

In an interview published in today's edition of the Abu Dhabi-based AL-WAHDAH newspaper, Al-'Urabi said the military industry base in Egypt is capable of manufacturing aircraft for any Arab country or for the entire Arab world, noting that Egypt has the manpower and technological potentials necessary for manufacturing aircraft.

He pointed out that Egyptian military industries have been able to produce the Hawkeye missile, which is a 100 percent Egyptian production, and that contacts are now underway to export it to some countries.

He stated that the existing cooperation between Egypt and the European countries is a multifaceted one. He noted that Egypt is manufacturing spare parts for French aircraft operating in the French Air Force and Armed Forces.

In the interview, which was carried by WAKH, Al-'Urabi said that technical cooperation is minimal because of the new technology that has emerged in Egypt in some areas of production. Such technology calls for pride, he added.

Further on Response to Occupied Territories

Israel's Image Campaign Chided

NC040721 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2250 GMT 3 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 3 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM affirms that Israel is currently implementing a large-scale propaganda campaign, seeking to convince a world that has

denounced its policy and methods in confronting the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories of its innocence, despite the well-known documents and facts that condemn it.

In an editorial in Thursday's edition, the paper notes that this is regarded as an indication of the embarrassment, disgrace, and the terrible world crisis that Israel is facing.

The paper says that the blood poured out in the occupied territories has stained Israel, despite all its feverish attempts to wash its hands of this historic shame. In its attempt to confront the Palestinian uprising Israel goes on committing ugly mistakes; in trying to justify its foolish actions, it goes on offering arguments which it thinks will fool people and enable it to face the huge wave of international condemnation that has caused a clear rift in Israeli-Jewish relations.

AL-AHRAM gives an example of the arguments Israel has given with its strange allegations that the timing of the uprising was arranged to coincide with President Mubarak's visit to Washington, so that the Palestinian cause could retain its prominent position in the world media and strengthen President Mubarak's hand during the negotiations.

The paper points out that Egypt does not claim such an honor. This would mean, the paper says, that with the push of a button and by remote control, Egypt can, in a premeditated fashion, spark off an all-out revolution in the occupied territories, despite Israel's presence and crude use of force. This would also mean that Israel is deprived of any willpower, despite its violent and repressive measures, to confront the "external plots" which, in harmony with the "internal plots," are designed to embarrass poor Israel and distort its peaceful image in the world.

The paper adds that this wicked claim is part of Israeli propaganda, seeking to portray Tel Aviv as the victim. It is consistent with all the other false claims that Israel is working to establish peace. This is confirmed by its readiness to respond to the alleged U.S. initiative, which it has invented and claimed to have been made by Washington. It then falsely announced its acceptance of some aspects of it in order to show "its true image which others have distorted."

U.S., Israeli Stands Viewed

NC050822 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0636 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Friday editions of Cairo papers are unanimous in their view that President Husni Mubarak's current tour has succeeded in placing the Palestinian cause once again at the top of U.S. foreign policy's list of priorities. It has also revealed to the world Israel's hideous suppressive practices in the occupied territories, the papers say.

AL-AHRAM affirms that through his initiative and continuous efforts, President Mubarak has expressed a genuine desire to restore the usurped rights of the Palestinian people. At a time when their courageous uprising is approaching its 3d month, the president is seeking to prevent their pure blood from being shed daily by the Israeli occupiers, the paper asserts.

AL-AHRAM goes on to say that the time has come to revive the peace process. The recent moves on the part of Washington have indicated a positive response to President Mubarak and show that his talks were successful. The paper expresses hope that the U.S. moves will include bringing real pressure to bear on Israel to make it pursue the road to peace, instead of using its veto at the UN Security Council. This veto, the paper adds, will only encourage Israel in its intransigent position that rejects all peace calls.

In conclusion, the paper says good intentions are not enough, and that Middle East peace requires more positive stands, from the United States in particular, in favor of right, justice, and the establishment of peace and security in the region. The paper notes that these objectives are not served by the frequent use of the veto.

Under the headline "Another Crime Against the Palestinian People," the AL-AKHBAR newspaper remarks that, not satisfied with all their brutal repression of the sons of the Palestinian people in their unsuccessful attempt to suppress the heroic uprising, the Israeli authorities have resorted to a measure no less hideous than the foregoing by issuing orders to close down all educational institutions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In this connection, the paper cites the Israeli military governor's decision to prevent more than 100,000 Palestinian students from attending classes at their schools and universities in the occupied territories. By indefinitely closing down more than 800 schools, universities, and technical institutes on the pretext that the Palestinian uprising is still continuing, the paper declares it is no secret that the Tel Aviv authorities are implementing a scheme whereby these authorities close down the greatest possible number of schools and universities every time Palestinian youths express resentment against the occupation. The paper states that this is a long-term policy designed to deprive the sons of the Palestinian people of their education and to close the doors of knowledge to them. The paper says that the Israeli authorities hope that this will lead to the emergence of a generation easily subdued into accepting the illegitimate occupation of their country.

In conclusion, the paper notes that this malicious policy is no less evil that the various other repressive measures Israel resorts to in its attempt to destroy the Palestinian people. It urges UNESCO and all legislative and cultural

bodies in the world to prevent Israel from perpetrating this crime against a nation which is fighting for its liberty and the preservation of its humanity.

Columnist Scores Israeli 'Nazism'

JN071659 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 5 Feb 88 p 55

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Excerpt] During demonstrations at the Qaddurah refugee camp in Ramallah, a 7-year-old child hurled a stone at an Israeli soldier. More than one soldier began chasing the child. The child's mother tried to stop them, but an Israeli soldier struck her on the head with the butt of his rifle. She fell and started bleeding. This is a real scene; it happened. Did Hitler's soldiers do more than this? Israel is the new dirty Nazism.

Police in Guatemala, Latin America, have discovered that Israel steals children from Guatemala and smuggles them to Israel, where the Israelis remove parts of their bodies and transplant them in the bodies of Israeli children. Nothing can be more grotesque. This report was carried by news agencies.

Under the headline "We Lost the Battle," the Israeli newspaper HA'ARETZ said that the Arabs have invented something that could take Israel by the throat. The Israeli leaders lost their minds and nerves and began jibbering because the Arabs have revealed to the world that Israel is a state with no morals or policies. By their stones, the Arabs stirred differences within Israel, between Israel and the Unied States, and between Israel and the Jews in the diaspora. [passage omitted]

Shamir's 'Inflexibility' Costly

JN081533 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Feb 88 p 6

[Editorial: "Pointless Intransigence"]

[Text] The suicide commando operation which left two Israeli soldiers dead was a blow to Israel's repressive policies. Israel has lulled itself into the belief that its military arsenal can provide security for its settlement population. The commando operation has vindicated Egypt's argument that violence is pointless. Israel's continued occupation of the Arab land is a virtual time bomb that can only be defused by a just Mideast peace.

The continuing Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory gives force to the aim of President Mubarak's initiative, which has won global sympathy and the support of the leaders he has met with during his current tour. The world public and President Mubarak are at one in their analysis of Mideast developments. President Mubarak is saying peace is a tough issue, but it is worth the efforts made on its behalf. He wants all of the parties to the dispute to listen to the voice of reason and common sense, sit together around an international conference table, and work out a solution to this bitter conflict. Therefore, the international community is watching with hightened interest to see what emerges from current efforts to surmount the obstacles placed in the path of the proposed conference. If only the message of the Palestinian suicide operation would hit home and convince Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir that inflexibility doesn't pay.

U.S. Veto 'Shallow' Calculation

JN081748 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Feb 88 p 7

[Editorial: "A Veto Out of Place"]

[Text] The U.S. veto of a UN Security Council resolution condemning Israeli abuse of human rights in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, areas victimized by Israeli soldiers, came as a real surprise because under the circumstances one would have expected the United States to vote for the resolution or, at any rate, abstain and thus allow it to pass without killing it.

Surprisingly enough, the United States objected to the content of the resolution; namely, a cessation of the measures the Israeli authorities are practicing in the occupied Arab land within the sight and earshot of the world. The resolution renewed calls for Israel to abide by the Geneva conventions on the protection of civilian rights under occupation, and to desist from further expulsions of Palestinians. Even more surprising were the arguments advanced by the American delegate seeking to explain away his exercise of the veto. He said essentially, the Security Council had already passed the same resolutions; hence, a new one would be a pointless exercise. Some argument! As the most supreme international authority, the UN Security Council is supposed to continue deliberations on the situation, passing whatever resolutions it pleases as long as the causes that initially prompted the condemnation are still there. To maintain silence, as the American delegate would have the Security Council do, is a call for complacency over what is happening in the occupied land which invites a further escalation requiring yet another Council session and a more harshly worded resolution!

No less surprising is for the American delegate to counsel a diplomatic approach since, according to him, for the Security Council to reexamine the issue would retard efforts to find practical solutions and attain a just peace! Who has ever said a UN Security Council resolution would hamper diplomatic efforts? If anything, the reverse is true. Such a resolution would have been a step in the right direction; rather than hinder diplomatic efforts, it would have promoted them. Otherwise, what purpose do Security Council resolutions serve? However, the United States does want the UN Security Council to meet on the Iraq-Iran war and to pass a harsher resolution against Iran, and it blames the Soviet Union for urging that diplomatic efforts be given a chance! The Security Council took its time drafting the resolution to avert the American veto, but to no avail. It has proved U.S. calculations to be shallow and confused!

Sudan

Foreign Minister on Relations With Zaire

JN081101 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1038 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 8 Feb (SUNA)—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has denied that Sudan permitted Zairian opposition elements to attack Zaire from inside its territory.

Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah has affirmed that relations between Sudan and Zaire are good. He said that the Zairian minister of state for foreign affairs will arrive in Khartoum next week on a visit to Sudan at his invitation, which confirms the good relations between the two countries.

Certain Belgian newspapers recently had reported that Zaire had accused Sudan of permitting Zairian opposition elements to use Sudanese territory for attacks against it.

Mubarak Plans To Visit Khartoum 'in April'

JN071143 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1020 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 7 Feb (SUNA)—President of brotherly Egypt Muhammad Husni Mubarak will visit Sudan in April as part of an Arab tour.

During his visit, he will confer with the chairman and members of the State Council and the prime minister. Talks will deal with [words indistinct] of mutual concern, the situation in the Middle East, and the Egyptian initiative to solve the Palestinian question.

President Mubarak has already made a European tour, which he conlcuded yesterday by a visit to Turkey. During his tour, Mubarak explained the Egyptian initiative to solve the Palestinian question.

Finance Minister Returns From Tunis Meetings

JN062024 Khartoum SUNA in English 1728 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb 6 (SUNA)—Finance Minister Bashir 'Umar returned here yesterday after taking part in the 44th Conference of the Economic and Social Council of Arab Finance Ministers, which was held in Tunis from the first to the fourth of February.

Mr. 'Umar told reporters that they had discussed assessment of Arab organization performance, facilitating trade between Arab countries, supporting the Palestinian uprising, the American economic blockade on Libya, and the freezing of Libyan capitals in the United States.

He said that other meetings were held on the margin of the Arab authority for investment and development and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA).

French Official Announces Drought Aid Grant

JN061929 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, Feb. 5 (SUNA)—The visiting French Minister of State for Foreign Affairs [title as received] Didier Bariani announced that his government has granted Sudan 30 million franc in addition to six million dollars as assistance for drought and desertification affected people.

Bariani who held a press conference last Thursday at the end of his one-day visit to Khartoum confirmed that his country will seek a just rescheduling at Paris Club for the debts of Sudan in order to develop economic relations between the two countries.

The French official stated that he held talks with chairman and members of the Council of the State on bilateral relations and ways of their promotion.

On the Libyan-Chadian conflict the French minister of state for foreign affairs said Sudan is worry about exploiting Sudan territories for attacking Chad.

"A French technical mission will arrive in Sudan shortly to review cultural and technical relations between the two countries," he said.

The minister said his visit to Sudan came in the context of a tour to some East African countries.

The French minister left Khartoum for home yesterday.

Al-Husayn on Securing Military Equipment

JN061931 Khartoum SUNA in English 1714 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum Feb. 6 (SUNA)—Interior Minister Sayyid Ahmad Al-Husayn has (?praised) the efforts being exerted by leader of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Muhammad 'Uthman 'Ali Mirghani in securing military equipment to the Sudanese Armed Froces and the other regular forces in the country.

In a political rally organized by citizens of Al-Turabi village south of here, Al-Husayn said 'Ali Mirghani is preparing to tour other several countries for the same purpose. On the other hand, 'Ali Mirghani hailed victories realized by his party in the elections of farmers and workers trade unions and said the victories have shown the unity of the party.

He said the real Islamic propagation will be his party's top commitment.

Spokesman Denies Army Seized Relief Trucks

JN091145 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1045 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Khartoum, 9 Feb (SUNA)—Al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of culture and information and the official government spokesman, has denied reports broadcast by some world radios yesterday that said the Sudanese Armed Forces had seized relief organization trucks in Juba, the South Region, because the Armed Forces needed them for security operations and the recapture of Kapoeta, which was occupied by the rebel forces. He also denied that the British Government will protest to the Sudanese Government over this issue.

In a statement, the minister affirmed that there are currently no relief organizations in the area mentioned. He indicated that all organizations operating there had been moved away after it was revealed that some of them had been involved in underhanded activities. He said that the report broadcast by some radios in this regard is groundless. He accused these radios of distorting Sudan's image.

The minister also announced that it has been decided to send a press delegation to the southern provinces to become acquainted with facts there in view of the rumors about the fall of several towns. He said that an invitation will be extended to newspaper editors and foreign reporters to participate in the trip to the south, which will be conducted by the information minister and the People's Armed Forces commander in chief.

Armed Forces Detail Attacks Against 'Outlaws'

EA062242 Omdurman National Unity Radio in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Brother comrades-in-arms and honorable listeners, peace and the mercy of God be upon you. Our courageous Armed Forces are continuing to fight against the outlaws and anyone who lets himself be seduced into attacking our country, be it in southern, eastern, or western Sudan. They are curbing the armed robbery being carried out by some against Sudan's stability in our beloved west. [passage omitted]

Brother comrades-in-arms, on 29 January the outlaws launched an attack against Farajok, which our forces succeeded in repulsing. On 30 January a helicopter was rushed to deliver some supplies and material. [passage omitted] The helicopter returned to Juba carrying four injured from Farajok. After the arrival of reinforcements for the Farajok forces, the outlaws again attacked them. [Passage indistinct] those killed included two officers, one with the rank of captain and the other a major. Two mortars belonging to the outlaws were also destroyed.

On 28 January the outlaws launched an attack against our forces at Keyala. Six soldiers were injured among our forces. Our forces succeeded in killing six individuals among the outlaws and capturing an officer with the rank of lieutenant. The forces also captured 1 75-mm mortar, 2 Kalashnikovs, 17 RPG mortars, and 7 82-mm mortars. Reinforcements for the Keyala forces left Juba on 30 January. In northern Equatoria, the dear homeland mobile force has reached Jummayzah. On the way from Juba to Jummayzah it overcame several ambushes set by the outlaws. Six individuals among the force were martyred and 15 others injured. The injured were vacated to Juba. The outlaws suffered great losses in lives and injuries. [passage omitted]

Brother comrades-in-arms, the command has rushed the Sword of Truth mobile force to liberate Kapoeta town. Before arriving at (Khawr Anjanir), the mobile force removed a trap set by the outlaws. The outlaws suffered many deaths and injuries. Arriving at (Khawr Anjanir), our forces clashed with the outlaws. Victory was ours. The outlaw losses amounted to 10 killed, including an officer with the rank of lieutenant. Our forces captured an RPG gun, 4 Kalashnikovs, and 400 rounds of ammunition. At 1100 on 30 January the Sword of Truth forces arrived in Torit. [passage omitted]

At Shali on 29 January a fighting patrol set out to comb the area in the direction of Ora, and engaged the outlaws, killing 22 and capturing 4. The patrol also captured seven Kalashnikovs. [passage omitted]

SPLA Regrets Halt in Mercy Committee Talks

EA081517 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLM-SPLA high command today regretted and expressed surprise and disappointment at the decision of the Mercy Committee Council to break off talks with the movement on the allegation that the SPLA had made military gains while the talks were going on.

Elaborating further, the spokesman pointed out that the Mercy Committee was composed of representatives of Muslim and Christian organizations, and that their mission was purely humanitarian and concerned purely with the question of how to get relief to southern Sudan under war conditions.

Their mission, said the spokesman, has no relation to whether Al-Sadiq's army or the SPLA was being beaten in the field. That they called off the talks because the SPLA was doing well on the war front is certainly [as heard] and leaves a lot to be desired about their religious credentials and humanitarian concern, said the spokesman.

The spokesman expressed the movement's willingness to resume the talks if the Mercy Committee changed their political uniform and returned into genuine humanitarian and religious gown.

SPLA Forces Kill 15 Government Soldiers

EA071746 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Combined SPLA force of the Central Equatorial Zonal Headquarters and of Shakkush Task Force No 2 under the direct command of alternate Commander John Kong Nyon and the overall command of Commander James Igga, alternative member of SPLM-SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of Central and Western Equatoria, intercepted the enemy troops at (Limro), about 36 miles away from Yei on Yei-Kajo Kaji Road, killing 15 enemy soldiers, including a captain whose name was not identified. [Words indistinct] one truck was also destroyed. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Maghreb Leaders Attend Saqiyat Commemoration

LD081211 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, the Tunisian and the Algerian peoples marked in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf today the 30th anniversary of the events which took place there. The marking of this anniversary, which is an immortal symbol of solidarity and brotherhood between the Tunisian and Algerian peoples, also took place in the presence of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

President Chadli Bendjedid and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi arrived at the Tunisian-Algerian border near Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf at 0945. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali was there to welcome them together with Premier Hedi Baccouche; Messaoud 'Ait Chalal, Algeria's ambssador to Tunisia; and Abd al-'Atti al-'Ubaydi, permanent delegate of the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah to the Arab League.

His excellency the president of the Republic warmly welcomed his two guests amidst overwhelming popular joy on this fraternal meeting.

A parade is now taking place at Saqiyat under the patronage of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President Chadli Bendjedid, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, President Chadli Bendjedid, and Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi have all given speeches on this occasion.

Leader Speeches, Activities

LD081634 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpt] Before continuing our world news, we now join our correspondent, Mouldi Hanani, at Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf:

[Hanani] Once again the soil of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf was the site of a celebration and work toward the establishment of the Maghreb, as an achievement which aims in essence at the prosperity and progress for the region's peoples.

Once again, this determination was apparent in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the incidents there.

Adding to the value and importance of the celebration is the meeting between His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali who went to Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf this morning accompanied by government and Political Bureau members, with both the Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, who is on an official visit to our country at the head of an important delegation composed of senior Algerian Government officials, and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

This celebration began with official welcome ceremonies, which were marked by warmth and sincere brotherly feelings shared by the three countries. His excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali warmly greeted his guests. He welcomed them to the soil where the blood of Tunisian and Algerian martyrs mingled 30 years ago, as a price for freedom and emancipation, and where today the sweat of young people in both countries is mingling as a symbol of unity toward the building of a better tomorrow. The three leaders reviewed military guards who saluted them as the three national anthems were played. His excellency the president and his guests then headed for the governorate headquarters where they rested for a short while. They later went to the memorial monument where they laid a wreath and recited verses from the Koran on the souls of pure martyrs.

At the conference hall of the region's institute, a public rally was organized under the patronage of the three leaders. The meeting was memorable and humble as befit the occasion. It began with the recitation of verses from the Koran amid an enthusiastic and national atmosphere. Those present chanted the anthem of the revolution and shouted: Long live the leaders of the three countries and the dignity of the Maghreb.

After having listened to the welcoming address made by the wali of the region, His Excellency Zine El Abidine Ben Ali took the floor.

[Begin Ben Ali recording] The 1983 Treaty of Concord and Fraternity was created as a distinguished framework which reflects the endeavors of both countries for solidarity and cooperation. This resulted in the establishment of development projects along the border strip between our countries, which was in the past a bridge of joint struggle. Today that border area has become a ground for bolstering cooperation ties and for building a better future in all areas.

We are determined, God willing, to continue building projects which will add to the rapproachment and enhance brotherhood between the peoples of both countries, help to improve their standard of living, and supply them with job opportunities and essential amenities.

These projects enabled the transfer of cooperation from the visionary stage to the stage of practicality and tangible reality. The diesel company, which enters the production phase today, and the cement factory are new pillars which strengthen this direction. They are also vivid examples of the cooperation between our two countries first, and second between the North and South.

President, colonel, guests, ladies, and gentlemen: After November, one of the first things we did was to restudy regional development and to improve less fortunate areas, among which are border regions. We attached special importance to these regions. We allocated to them additional subsidies, besides what is included in the 7-year plan. This is because we want to improve and revitalize these regions and these inhabitants, to help them lessen the wrath of nature and the scarcity of resources. We are determined, on the national and bilateral levels with the sisterly country of Algeria, to pursue this path, to establish joint new ventures which will benefit the inhabitants of these regions in particular and the two sisterly countries in general.

The decree of November gave Tunisian-Algerian cooperation new dimensions. We sincerely believe that conditions, following the change of November, are suitable to give our cooperation with friends, and namely with brothers, new dimensions. Even if what has been achieved between the sisterly states to Tunisia and Algeria is a source of satisfaction and optimism, the results achieved during the visit of the brother colonel to Tunisia [applause] will also have a positive impact on relations between both countries. This visit enabled us to discuss all aspects of this cooperation in all clarity and responsiblity, based on strong grounds which will serve the interests of both sides, and which will be a basis for brotherly constructive integration. [end recording]

[Hanani] His excellency President Bendjedid then took the floor. He said in particular:

[Begin Bendjedid recording]. Today on this occasion, the Algerian people harbor towards you all esteem and respect. Their hope is that we join hands to achieve more steps in other fields to boster our joint fate, dictated to us by our civilization and destiny. [applause]

Obviously, in this field we have achieved a lot. There are other projects which will be added to our joint ventures. However, we should also shoulder the responsibility of building our joint destiny, that of the Maghreb states, with unity, clearing the atmosphere, to form blocs. I do not mean to form blocs in order to attack the others, but to defend our existence as a nation, a civilization, and as joint history. [applause] We are living in a world of blocs. It is therefore necessary and inevitable for the peoples of this region to unite gradually and step by step in all spheres, to work to achieve the aims to which we aspired before and during our revolutions of liberation. [end recording]

[Hanani] Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution said:

[Begin Al-Qadhdhafi recording] We humbly and admiringly stand at this very moment before the martyrs of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf who prescribed with their blood the unity of the Arab people and of the one Arab nation. We pray to the souls of the martyrs of the eternal Algerian revolution and the martyrs of the Arab Tunisian people from Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf to Bizerte.

Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf is not only a witness to and proof of the unity of the Arab people and the unity of the Arab nation, but it also represents the duty called for by the unity of the Arab people and the Arab nation. The unity of the Arab people and the unity of Arab nation is obvious. It does not require any evidence. It is historically dictated and accepted. But what is the duty and the price of the unity of the Arab people and the unity of this Arab nation? This is what the Tunisian people paid and demonstrated in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf. This is the price paid by the martyrs in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf on such a day for generations. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Comments on Al-Qadhdhafi Speech

LD081654 Paris International Service in French 1245 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] This was not really part of the program of the festivities of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf in western Tunisia at the border with Algeria. The site was bombed only 30 years ago by the French Air Force. Of course, this was during the Algerian war.

Since then, this commemoration is a tradition between the Tunisians and the Algerians but this is the first time that this remembrance day has been held at such a level: that of heads of state and with the participation of Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, who has set his heart on anything that concerns building the union of the Maghreb.

This morning General Ben Ali for Tunisia and President Bendjedid for Algeria spoke to the war veterans, the families of refugees and inhabitants who were killed at the time, and to public opinion at large, since these speeches were broadcast on the radio. When Col al-Qadhdhafi spoke this morning, he did so at length as is

his custom. He made a big speech for Arab union coupled with a violent anti-U.S. diatribe. Here is a report by (Redha Boughezi) who has been following this speech since this morning:

[(Bourghezi)] Col al-Qadhdhafi was here this morning in the sunny village of Saqiyat with the Tunisian, Algerian, and Libyan flags all out, between Presidents Ben Ali and Bendjedid. Faithful to himself, the number one Libyan again drew attention to himself by delivering a speech which lasted nearly an hour, while, on the other hand, the Algerian and Tunisian presidents limited themselves to very short speeches. Sparing of words, Presidents Ben Ali and Bendjedid called on their peoples to pursue bilateral cooperation which is already under way in order to permit the gradual and solid building of the great Maghreb, the construction of which aims at attacking nobody, according to what the Algerian president said.

For Col al-Qadhdhafi, the immediate union between all Arab countries is a question of life or death. The Arab nation is in danger. We must make sacrifices for this union, even if this means paying for it with our blood, as did the martyrs of Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, the Colonel said. We must share everything: Libyan oil also belongs to the Tunisians, the Sudanese, and the Yemenis, al-Qadhdhafi added.

The man who was least expected to come to Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf then made a violent anti-U.S. and anti-Israeli diatribe. He is a man for whom the danger of colonialism is still hovering over the Arab nation, which he described as torn apart and wounded. Al-Qadhdhafi concluded by saying that this nation needs electric shock treatments to wake up.

Bendjedid on Maghreb

LD082239 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Speech by Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid at a meeting of Maghreb leaders in Saqiyat Sidi Yusuf, Tunisia, on 8 February—recorded]

[Excerpts] I am glad, on my own behalf, and on behalf of the delegation accompanying me, to address to you my sincere salutations, on behalf of the Algerian people, your friend and ally, on this occasion dear to both the Tunisian and Algerian people. [passage omitted]

We were fighting and the fighters came from the extreme west to the extreme east of the greater Maghreb. We believed in a dream for Maghreb unity and it is for this dream I am convinced, praise be to God, that we have begun to meet the necessary conditions for unification. In our unity resides our strength, and this is possible because the peoples of the region share a lot. We are endeavoring to achieve this and I hope that we will spare no effort, and not only among the leadership, because the responsibility is huge.

We hope that our peoples, our cadres, and our officials in various fields will have the same outlook, the same enthusiasm, and the same mobilization, because the issue is one of destiny which requires a common stand and the backing of all our peoples and cadres until we achieve this objective. Undoubteldy, the desire exists, the will is strong, and we will achieve success, God willing. [applause]

Let us say that we have begun the work by clearing the air and we will continue to clear the air and talk about the issues existing in the arena. We will do our utmost. The only goal is the interest in our region and its stability because our only enemy is backwardness, ignorance and backwardness in its greater sense.

When we gather our capabilities and human and material potential, we will undoubtedly create a powerful force. This does not mean that by building the structure of the Maghreb we forget our cultural affiliation and our Arab-Islamic responsibility toward our Arab and Muslim brothers. When we clear the air and create an economic and political power in this region, we will be able to contribute, as much as possible, to helping our Arab and Muslim brothers and tackle their problems and issues. [applause]

With our unity we will triumph and we will work with God's help and we hope that we are all ready for action. We pray to God Almighty to assist us to gain your confidence and the confidence of the peoples of the Maghreb region. With God's help, we will triumph. Thank you. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Heir Apparent, Delegation Leave for Egypt

JN060937 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0820 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Manama, 6 Feb (WAKH)—His Royal Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn 'Isa al Khalifah, heir apparent and commander in chief of the Bahraini Defense Forces, left Manama this morning on his way to Cairo for a 3-day official visit, during which he will hold talks on promoting bilateral ties and discuss developments in both the Arab and Gulf arenas and on issues of mutual concern.

He was seen off by the amir of Bahrain, His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman al Khalifah, Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Salman al Khalifah, and a large number of senior military and civilian officials.

The heir apparent is accompanied by a high-level delegation including Minister of Foreign Affairs Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak al Khalifah, Minister of Information Tariq 'Abd al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, Chief of Amir's Court Yusuf al-Dawsari, President of the General Establishment of Youth Shaykh 'Isa ibn Muhammad al Khalifah, Director of Protocol in the Foreign Ministry Nabil Qambar, as well as a number of officials and a media delegation.

Kuwait

Al-'Usaymi Discusses Ties With Iran, Egypt

LD082034 Kuwait KUNA in English 1635 GMT 8 Feb 88

[text] Beirut, Feb 8 (KUNA)—Kuwait's state minister for foreign affairs, Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi, was quoted here Monday as saying that Kuwait is not against opening a dialogue with Tehran's leaders on ending the tension in the Gulf area.

The Kuwaiti minister was also quoted as saying that U.S.-Soviet concord can ease tension in the world, especially the Arabian Gulf region.

Al-'Usaymi's remarks were made in an interview with the weekly Lebanese "AL-USBU' AL-'ARABI" published here today.

Kuwait does not object to opening a dialogue with Iran "because Kuwait seeks understanding and believes in good neighborhood despite varying views on the continuation of the war," the minister stressed.

Iran is to be blamed for the interruption of negotiations with the Gulf countries, Al-'Usaymi said, adding that Kuwait has always kept its nerves cool in dealing with Iran.

He cited the invasion and ransacking of the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran several years ago as example of Iran's hostile actions.

"Despite their occupation of our embassy and their burning of our properties in Tehran, we did not take the action narrowly nor retaliated. We respected the status of the Iranian Embassy in Kuwait," Al-'Usaymi stressed.

"We do not call for dialogue only for the sake of dialogue," he said, "but for more normalization of relations which would eliminate reasons for tension and make dialogue more viable and reasonable."

"We believe in co-existence that transforms the Gulf area into a one of constructive interaction," the Kuwaiti official told the magazine.

On the American naval presence in the Arabian Gulf, he said that the "decision to protect international waterways is an American decision and does not concern Kuwait more than it concerns all countries of the region."

The U.S. and several European countries that maintain military presence in the Gulf protect their shipping in the waters of the Gulf against attacks by Iran.

Asked about Soviet-U.S. contacts on a second U.N. resolution that would impose sanctions against the party that rejects peace calls, the Kuwaiti state minister said that "undoubtedly interests of the superpowers play a role in applying U.N. Resolution 598."

"A concord between the superpowers could lessen tension in many areas in the world, especially the Gulf," he added.

Meanwhile, Al-'Usaymi said that what links Kuwait with Iraq is "national Arab commitments and fraternity obligations."

"We are committed to what is agreed upon in the Arab League charter and the Arab Joint Defense Agreement," he stressed.

Al-'Usaymi strongly denied reports that spoke of sending Egyptian troops and arms to Kuwait to fend off any foreign threat.

He said the subject of Egyptian military assistance to Kuwait was not discussed between his highness the amir of Kuwait and President Husni Mubarak of Egypt during the latters visit to Kuwait last month.

The states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, he maintained, are serious in enhancing their joint security. The GCC states have a joint military force numbering some 12,000 troops.

While stressing that any threat against any GCC country would be considered against all of them, he emphasized on the need to surpass Arab conflicts and come under one flag.

The minister also spoke on the Palestinian uprising, saying that it served as a unification factor and that it should be employed in regarding the usurped rights of the Palestinian people.

U.S. Attempt To Stop Uprising 'Fruitless'

LD071049 Kuwait KUNA in English 0934 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 7 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti weekly Sunday charged the United States of indulging in a fruitless attempt to foil the popular uprising of the Palestinians when it despatched Philip Habib to the region last week.

What could the United States do to help the uprising after vetoing condemnation of the barbaric practices of the unarmed Palestinians which the entire world community including the American media, denounced, AL-RISALA [publication name as received] said.

"Philip Habib could not help leaving the region empty-handed," the weekly said recalling the American envoy's notorious record in the region when he promised safety for the Palestinian camps in the wake of the withdrawal of the PLO forces from Beirut in 1982 but were massacred a few days afterwards by the Israeli-backed Phalange militias.

The American envoy met with Jordan's King Husayn in Amman last week hours before the monarch embarked on his current European tour but nothing filtered out on what went on in that meeting which was followed by a similar one with President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria.

AL-RISALA said that as Habib prepared to head for the region, it was anticipated beforehand that his mission would fail because "he came to abort a horizon embroiled by the Palestinian people by bullets and stones and paid for by dear blood."

Concluding, the weekly said the American envoy had no right in the first place to come "because the Palestinians do not expect the American Administration to appreciate the ambitions and aspirations the Palestinians are fighting for to the finish."

Defense Minister Meets French Military Group

LD081347 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1301 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Kuwait, 8 Feb KUNA—Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir conferred at his office this morning with General Jacques Mitterrand, the French chief of the Air General Staff, and his accompanying delegation, on the occasion of the general's several-day official visit to the country. During this visit he will meet a number of officials at the Defense Ministry, the Army General Staff, and the Foreign Ministry.

The minister and the guest had friendly talks and discussed relations between the two friendly countries in the military field, as well as the means to bolster them.

The meeting was attended by the chief of the General Staff, the undersecretary of the Defense Ministry, and the assistant chief of the General Staff of [words indistinct].

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Murphy Delegation

LD082149 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1850 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Hafr al-Batin, 8 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God guard him during his stay in Hafr al-Batin, this evening received Mr. Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, and the delegation accompanying him.

The meeting was attended by His Royal Highness Prince Salman ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, governor of the Riyadh area, His Excellency 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Mr Hume Horan, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom.

Mr. Murphy arrived in Riyadh earlier today. He was welcomed at King Khalid International Airport by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary for political affairs at the Foreign Ministry, and Tawfiq 'Alamdar, chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry.

Murphy Seen Off by Officials

LD090712 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0645 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 9 Feb (SPA)—Richard Murphy, the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs, left Riyadh this morning.

He was seen off by 'Abd al-Rahman Mansuri, under secretary at the Foreign Ministry for political affairs, Khalid Tawfiq 'Alamdar, the chief of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and a number of other officials.

Reply to Besharati Remarks on Pilgrimage

LD082222 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1910 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Riyadh, 8 Feb (SPA)—In an interview shown by Iranian television 2 days ago, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ali Mohammad Besharati announced that his country will send more pilgrims to the holy shrines this year than in previous years without seeking the Saudi authorities' permission. He also said that the Iranians will absolutely not seek permission to organize political

demonstrations there. In reply to this announcement, a responsible source told SPA: In answer to 'Ali Mohammad Besharati, we would like to declare the following:

First—As a result of the demagogic practices and sabotage carried out by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards during the pilgrimage last year, hundreds of Saudi security men and citizens, as well as pilgrims to God's holy house, were killed or injured within the confines of God's ancient house in Mecca. This has been and is being condemned and denounced by the Islamic world as a whole. The Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has adopted a final decision not to allow the repetition of such practices—which completely contradict Islamic teaching—on any inch of Saudi territory during the pilgrimage season or at any time or place.

Accordingly, the Kingdom's government issues clear orders to Saudi security authorities to deal quickly and firmly with anyone who is tempted to harm the sacredness of God's rites or to attack God's holy places throughout the sacred territories. These orders have gained the support of millions of Muslims represented by their leaders, ulema, and Islamic organizations throughout the world. This is in addition to the Islamic, Arab, and Gulf summit resolutions that have supported any measures taken by the Kindgom to maintain the serenity of the pilgrimage and the security of pilgrims.

Second—As the one with sole responsibility for organizing the affairs of pilgrimage in conformity with God's orders and for taking care of the pilgrims, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia—which has mobilized and is still mobilizing all of its resources to ensure that every Muslim who comes to perform the rites of pilgrimage will be able to do so in ease, security, and equanimity—will not be indifferent regarding its duties toward pilgrims to God's holy house.

The Kingdom will not be one bit complacent in exercising its sovereignty over its territories. Also, it will not permit anyone to dictate specific conditions in violation of the customs followed by Muslims in performing their religious duties. These customs were established at the time when God instituted the rites in his holy book and they were explained to us by his prophet, may the blessings of God be upon him.

Third—While always welcoming the guests to God's house and doing its utmost to look after their security and comfort, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia reaffirms its adherence to the equal treatment of all pilgrims. No pilgrims of any country may have special distinction in treatment. In the eyes of God, all are equal at his holy house. An Arab is no better than a non-Arab and a white person is no better than a black person, except in his godliness.

The source added in conclusion: After saying this, we ask: Would the Government of Iran or any other government of the world accept any act of such defiance by another state? Would any government accept such an act of defiance like the one in the statement by the Iranian deputy foreign minister, or like what was said by his colleague Karrubi, or his other colleague, the head of the War Information Headquarters, Dr Kamal Kharrazi, who stated: Saudi Arabia must solve the problem that harmed bilateral relations during last year's pilgrimage in a manner agreeable to Iran?

We would like this question to be answered by every state that respects its own sovereignty and defends its sanctities.

After this, we will take no notice of any statement by an Iranian official in this connection. The Government of Iran should realize this and understand it.

We pray to God that he guide them to the path of right and bring them back onto the proper road.

Minister on Pilgrim, Mosque Security

LD071654 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1340 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 7 Feb (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, minister of interior, has asserted that the safety of the holy mosques' pilgrims and the security of the holy mosques are indisputable and that no one, under any circumstances, is allowed to violate them.

He was asked: There has been nothing that could disturb the security and the tranquility of this country except that which was committed by Iranians in front of the Arab and Islamic world during last year's pilgrimage. What is your highness' evaluation of the preparations to confront such violations against our secure country? His Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz said: We will stop any violation, regardless of its source, against the holy mosque's pilgrims.

His highness was answering questions during his news conference following the graduation ceremony of some groups of the special security forces, which he attended. He said: We hope that whoever tries to violate this security would think twice before going ahead. We hope that during the next pilgrimage we will not see anything that might disturb security. His highness continued: Any thug intending to commit an action will, God willing, be strongly counteracted, as under no circumstances are we going to allow last year's pilgrimage event to recur. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz continued: Under no circumstances do we want to injure anyone, but if someone intends to harm us we will not hesitate to confront him with all force and an iron fist, and we will, God willing, triumph over him, because we defend what is right. The righteous are always victorious, God willing. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Indian Minister Arrives for Meetings

Gulf Tension Discussed

JN061115 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] The UAE and India asserted their support for Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war. They also stressed the need to implement this resolution to end the war and restore peace between the two warring countries and reduce tension in the Gulf.

This came during the meeting between Rashid 'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for external affairs, who is now visiting the country. The meeting took place in the minister's office this morning.

A responsible source at the Foreign Ministry said after the meeting that the two sides, after reviewing the Middle East problem in light of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, stressed the urgent need to exert efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement to the Palestinian question, which will guarantee the legitimate and inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

The source said that during the meeting, the two sides reviewed the Afghan issue, the Cambodian problem, a number of regional and international issues, and bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

The source added that the two sides expressed satisfaction over their identical views on many important issues and stressed the need for the continuation of consultations and coordination between the two countries on regional and international problems.

The meeting was attended by Ya'qub al-Kindi, director of foreign affairs in the Foreign Ministry, and Inderjit Singh, the Indian ambassador to the UAE.

Message Given to Al-Nuhayyan

JN062133 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1920 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Feb (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan, president of the UAE, today received a message from Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi dealing with the situation in the region and bilateral relations. The message was handed to Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad, who received Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, and his accompanying delegation.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and ways to promote them as well as developments in the Gulf region and the Middle East in light of the Palestinian people's uprising inside the occupied territories. They also discussed issues of interest to the nonaligned countries. Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad stressed the need to find a just solution to the Palestine question to end the crux of the conflict in the Middle East through convening an international peace conference in order to give the Palestinian people their right to self determination and establish an independent Palestinian state. He also praised the Palestinian uprising inside the occupied territories and affirmed that the Iraq-Iran war should end in accordance with Security Council Resolution 598 and through more efforts by the Nonaligned Movement and the United Nations. He also voiced his hope that security and stability will prevail in the Gulf region in the interest of the region's peoples and the world.

The Indian minister also praised UAE positions on international issues and the Third World countries. The meeting was attended by Rashid 'Abdallah, UAE minister of state for foreign affairs; and the Indian ambassador to the UAE.

Meets With Defense Minister

JN081847 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Dubayy, Feb 8 (GNA)—UAE Defence Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Rashid Al-Maktum today conferred with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Eduardo Faleiro, who is currently visiting the country.

The two ministers reviewed the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war and current regional and international efforts to end the conflict within the context of implementing Security Council Resolution 598.

The meeting, which also discussed ways of bolstering bilateral cooperation, was attended by Indian ambassador Inderjit Singh Rathore.

Faleiro Departs 8 Feb

JN082207 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2020 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Dubayy, 8 Feb (WAKH)—Eduardo Faleiro, Indian minister of state for foreign affairs, left Abu Dhabi this evening after a 3-day visit to the UAE. He was seen off by Ahmad Hamid al-Ta'ir, UAE minister of state for financial and economic affairs and acting education and youth minister.

Commander of Egyptian Naval Forces Arrives

JN082204 Manama WAKH in Arabic 2057 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 8 Feb (WAKH)—Staff Major General Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the Egyptian Naval Forces, arrived in Abu Dhabi this evening. Upon arrival, the Egyptian military official stated that the visit takes place at the invitation of the commander of the UAE Naval Forces. He also expressed hope that the visit will increase military ties between the two countries' naval forces.

Yemen Arab Republic

Ministers Receive Soviet Geology Minister

JN081347 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Brother 'Abd al-'Aziz 'Abd al-Ghani, prime minister and Standing Committee member, this morning received USSR Geology Minister Yevgeniy Kozlovskiy, presently visiting our country. They discussed cooperation between our country and the USSR. The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad 'Ali Muhani, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

The USSR geology minister also called on Dr Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, deputy prime minister, development minister, Central Planning Apparatus chief, and Standing Committee member. They discussed bilateral ties, with special emphasis on prospecting for petroleum and minerals. The meeting was attended by the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

'Mercenaries' Reportedly Sent to Libya

JN081805 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 7 Feb 88 p 4

[Text] Sanaa—Libya has sought the help of a number of mercenaries from the YAR, estimated at 1,850 men. Libya paid each of them $1,000 before their departure. The YAR paid each of them 2,000 Yemeni riyals, which is equivalent to $200.

It is believed that this move was followed by a French protest to the YAR for allowing these mercenaries to travel to Libya. Libya has returned 10 members of the force to the YAR, alleging they are Saudi agents, while 2 members died in Libya.

Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Arrives 8 Feb

JN081830 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Spanish Deputy Foreign Minister Fernandos arrived in Sanaa this evening on a visit to our country scheduled to last several days. He told SABA' that his visit is in the framework of the historic ties between Spain and the YAR. Fernandos added that he will hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials to promote bilateral ties, and exchange views on regional and international issues of shared interest. On hand to see him were Brother Ahmad al-'Iryani, Foreign Ministry undersecretary; Brother Ghalib al-'Adufi, head of the ministry's international desk; and other officials.

Further on Visit by USSR's Pallayev

Confers With Tariq 'Aziz

JN061100 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here today Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his delegation, who are currently visitng Iraq.

The two sides discussed the developement of Iraqi-Soviet relations, the conditions in the region, and issues of common concern.

The Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Soviet ambassador in Baghdad attended the meeting.

Talks With President 'Fruitful'

JN061605 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has said that his meeting with his excellency President Saddam Husayn was fruitful. He added that his talks with his excellency were characterized by cordiality and mutual understanding, and that they had identical views and similar positions.

In a statement to the Russian language Baghdad radio, the USSR official said that his talks constitute a good basis for expanding cooperation between the two friendly countries, especially since the two sides have stressed their desire to promote these relations in the interest of the two peoples. He also reiterated his country's call for ending the Iraq-Iran war through negotiations between the two sides in the interest of the two countries and the region. He affirmed that the Soviet Union is exerting every effort to take decisive and immediate measures to end this war. He also emphasized that his country supports every effort within the framework of the UN Security Council in this regard.

Praises 'Strong' Relations

JN062124 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1910 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Presidium, has lauded relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union and described them as strong. In a press conference in Baghdad today, he said that he valued his talks with President Saddam Husayn. He said these talks expressed the two countries' desire to expand the relations of friendship and cooperation to serve the interest of both friendly peoples.

The Soviet official said the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war is against the interest of the region's peoples. He hailed the efforts to end this war. He also asserted the Soviet Union's support for UN Security Council Resolution 598 since it is the basis of ending the war between Iraq and Iran.

Joint Press Statement Issued

JN071955 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Iraqi and Soviet parliamentarians have expressed their deep satisfaction with the level of cordial relations between Iraq and the Soviet Union based on the friendship and cooperation treaty signed by the two sides in 1972. This came in a joint press statement issued today at the end of a visit to Iraq by a delegation from the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium headed by Gaibnazar Pallayev, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, at the invitation of the Iraqi National Assembly. The delegation met with his excellency President Saddam Husayn and held talks with Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium also held talks with Sa'dun Hammadi, RCC member and National Assembly speaker, on relations of friendship and cooperation between the two councils and peoples. The Soviet side reviewed the reconstruction process in the Soviet Union aimed at achieving radical changes in Soviet society. The Iraqi side briefed the Soviet side on the administrative and economic revolution led by President Saddam Husayn. The two sides expressed a desire to continue to exchange visits by delegations, which was crowned with the trip to Moscow by Comrade Saddam Husayn, secretary of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party Regional Command and president of the Republic of Iraq, in 1985 and his meeting with Comrade Gorbachev, CPSU general secretary.

The statement refers to the importance of future promotion of ties between the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and the Iraqi National Assembly. The two sides stressed the importance of paying more attention to regional wars and disputes, foremost of which is the Iraq-Iran war, which should end. The Soviet delegation highly appreciated Iraq's readiness for a political settlement of this armed dispute in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 598. It stressed that the Soviet Union will continue its efforts, including those in the UN Security Council, to implement all provisions of the resolution and to take every necessary measure to put an end to this tragic war. It announced that additional steps should be taken to implement this resolution.

The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly reviewed the background of the armed dispute with Iran, as well as its objectives, stressing Iraq's right to defend its sovereignty, independence, and national options. He said that Iraq opposes any foreign interference or trusteeship, affirms

its principled and strong adherence to its peaceful policy on regional disputes, and seeks negotiations on the basis of mutual respect and national sovereignty.

Upon discussing the situation in the Arabian Gulf, the two sides referred to the need to limit the scope of the armed dispute there and to respect the sovereignty of the region's countries. The Soviet and Iraqi parliamentarians also strongly condemned the extensive repressive measures by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. They voiced their solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people under the PLO, their sole legitimate representative, against the occupation and for the sake of achieving their inalienable national rights. The two sides also expressed support for convening a UN-sponsored, fully empowered international conference on the Middle East to be attended by the five permanent UN Security Council members as well as other parties, including the PLO, on an equal footing. They voiced support for efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis in accordance with national accord among the Lebanese themselves to preserve Lebanon's unity and independence.

The Iraqi and the Soviet sides reiterated their support for the national liberation movements in Asia, Africa, and Latin America in their struggle to achieve independence, unity, and progress against all forms of aggression, racial discrimination, and covetous imperialist monopolies. They also stressed the need to respect man's basic rights, promote democratic practices, set up appropriate bases, and reinforce understanding among countries on the various continents.

Regarding the urgent issues pertaining to the international situation, the two sides expressed their joint eagerness to double current efforts to eliminate the nuclear danger, stop the arms race, and prevent any proliferation of such weapons in outer space. The Iraqi side highly appreciated the Soviet-U.S. treaty on removing intermediate and shorter-range missiles from Europe. They announced their support for the firm and principled policy pursued by the Soviet Union to clear the international political atmosphere and promote international detente. The Soviet delegation expressed thanks for the hospitality it was accorded in Iraq. The guest delegation conveyed an official invitation to a delegation from the Iraqi National Assembly to visit the Soviet Union. The invitation was welcomed, and a date will be set for the visit.

Editorial Examines Joint Soviet 'Friendship'

JN060808 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic
2 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Iraqi-Soviet Friendship: Dialogue for the Sake of Friendship and Peace"]

[Text] Iraq and the Soviet Union are linked by cordial relations, whose roots date to the July 1958 revolution, covering all fields of cooperation. They have been further entrenched by ties of cooperation and joint understanding. Moreover, time has enhanced the stability and constancy of the solid bases of these relations in moving toward future relations.

It is an established fact that the relationship between Iraq and the Soviet Union is based neither on a limited, isolated vision confined to the two countries' temporary bilateral relations, nor completely dissociated from the two countries' circumstances, relations with other parties, and views of international problems and issues, particularly those linked to the Arab region and neighboring countries.

Undoubtedly, a joint or close understanding of fateful problems and issues and the unity of views stemming from values, principles, and the bases of international relations are two effective factors in taking firm strides toward promoting relations.

On the basis of this understanding, we believe that there is no contradiction between Arab struggle as an expression of the nation's interests and the Soviet Union's declared policy toward the region and the Arab nation. Rather, there are many joint issues and tasks that bring the two parties together and consolidate the existing relations of friendship between them.

It is natural then that the Arab nation, including Iraq, will view the Soviet Union's stands on the continued Iranian aggression against Iraq on the basis of the strong relations between the two parties. It is also natural that the Arab nation and Iraq will expect more from friends than from others.

The entire international community knows that Iran insists on war and aggression against Iraq and the area countries. It also knows that Iran has rejected and continues to reject a peace based on the principles of sovereignty and mutual respect. The international community said its word on this issue when it unanimously adopted Resolution 598. This resolution is binding. It is completely clear to every objective observer that Iraq welcomed the resolution unambiguously and expressed sincere readiness to implement it. It is also clear that Iran rejected peace, did not respond to the international community's resolutions and appeals, and did not accept Resolution 598. For more than 6 months now, Iran has been playing a game of maneuvers, deception, and disinformation to abort the resolution, divide the UN Security Council, and gain further time to continue its war and aggression.

Iran is extorting the UN Security Council and disregarding the will of the international community. When we hold a dialogue with concerned parties, especially friends, on issues related to the war and aggression against our people, land, and principles, and on the need to implement Resolution 598 and respect its articles, our dialogue will be based on these clear facts. We will also

operate on the clear basis that the Iranian aggression threatens our country, sovereignty, and security, as well as the entire region. Therefore, we cannot but help being interested in the international stand on this aggression.

Based on this conception and understanding of the current state of affairs and the nature of Iraqi- and Arab-Soviet relations, and on what the Arab nation, particularly Iraq, hopes from the Soviet Union as a friendly state and as a member state shouldering a very large responsibility in the international community, we made points and statements, including those of the foreign minister on this issue several weeks ago.

The main objective of these statements, as it is clear, is the desire for stands by friends to expose the Iranian regime's maneuvers, failure to implement Resolution 598, exploitation of stands, and disregard of the international community's will, which was truly expressed by this resolution. Also, these statements are aimed at pressing ahead without reluctance to secure compliance with the binding UN Security Council resolution.

If we look at the issue from this angle, criticism of any stand by any party is not a prelude to abandoning friendship and its necessities, but a confirmation of the correct framework of this friendship and a concern about its content and objectives, especially if these relations are as deep-rooted and principled as they are.

The interest of peace requires that the whole UN Security Council, and particularly the five permanent members, headed by our friends, adopt a firm stand toward Iran's attempts at deception and disinformation and adopt the necessary measures for securing compliance with the binding Resolution 598 in the service of the issue of peace in the region and the entire world.

Sudan's Lolik, Delegation Conclude Visit 6 Feb

JN061111 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Feb (INA)—The Sudanese political parties delegation led by Sudanese State Council member Pacifico Lado Lolik left Baghdad last night at the end of a visit to Iraq that lasted several days. During the visit, Pacifico Lado Lolik delivered a written message to President Saddam Husayn from Sudanese State Council Chairman Ahmad al-Mirghani on bilateral relations and ways of promoting them.

The Sudanese delegation also held talks with Iraqi officials on the situation in the Arab region, the Iranian aggression against Iraq, and bilateral relations. In a cable to President Saddam Husayn at the end of the Sudanese delegation's visit, the Sudanese official described his talks as fruitful and said that Sudan is eager to maintain the good relations of brotherhood and cooperation existing between Iraq and Sudan. He also said he hopes that these relations will further expand and expressed the Sudanese delegation's thanks for the warm welcome he and the members of the delegation have been accorded.

Saddam Husayn Receives Message From Castro

JN071149 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0955 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 7 Feb (INA)—RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim received Giraldo Mazola, vice minister of the Cuban Ministry of Foreign Relations here today. The Cuban official delivered to 'Izzat Ibrahim a written message for President Saddam Husayn from Cuban President Fidel Castro on bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The Cuban official also asked 'Izzat Ibrahim to convey President Castro's greetings to President Saddam Husayn and his wishes of success and prosperity to the Iraqi people.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry under secretary and the Cuban ambassador in Baghdad.

Saddam Husayn Attends General Command Meeting

JN061924 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Staff Field Marshal President Saddam Husayn, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, has presided over a meeting of the Armed Forces General Command. The meeting was attended by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Comrade 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Ba'th Party Regional Command; and Staff General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, minister of state for military affairs.

Foreign Ministry Denies Maltreatment of POW's

JN081403 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1110 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Baghdad, 8 Feb (INA)—A responsible source in the Foreign Ministry today strongly responded to the claims of Ansari, head of the Iranian prisoners in Iraq.

In a statement to INA, the source said it is not surprising to hear from Iranian regime officials unrealistic lies that are very far from the actual conditions Iranian POW's are living under in Iraq. The source added that responsible quarters in Iraq have allowed 19 persons representing an International Committee for the Red Cross mission, including two doctors, to visit all Iranian POW camps in Iraq and to supervise the organization of their living conditions. He added that the mission carried out a series of visits to all Iranian POW camps in 1987, with an average of one visit every 6 weeks.

Ansari claimed that the Iranian POW's in Iraq are being tortured and maltreated.

The responsible Iraqi source affirmed that the Iranian POW camps in Iraq are well-organized so as to accomodate prisoners in a healthy, comfortable manner. He said that all necessary requirements for easing their stay, securing their comfort, and guaranteeing human dignity for them are available. He noted that an administrative and medical cadre are available to supervise their affairs and their psychological state, to cater for their clothing needs and blankets, and to insure sufficient foodstuffs; as well as to organize their free time and insure their psychological welfare.

The source said that Iran had expelled all Red Cross workers in Tehran and allowed them to resume their activities only in December 1986 within a very narrow framework and under conditions that violate the Geneva Conventions. He said that Iran allowed only seven persons from the mission to work in Iran. This makes it impossible for the mission to visit all Iraq POW's there.

He added that the mission's visit to the camps of Iraqi POW's in Iran are carried out only when Iranian observers are present. He said the Iranian authorities do not allow the international mission to meet prisoners separately. The mission's visits are incomplete as it does not have an opportunity to know the real conditions of the POW's or to hear their complaints. On the other hand, the mission's visits to Iranian POW camps are carried out freely and without restrictions.

The source disclosed that thousands of Iraqi POW's in Iran are still unregistered. Their relatives know nothing about them and they receive no letters because they have been hidden by the Iranian enemy.

He said that the registered Iraqi POW's in Iran complain that they do not receive their relatives' letters regularly. On the other hand, competent Iraqi authorities allow mail from and to the Iranian POW's.

He added that in only 1 year, from December 1986 to December 1987, there were 836,939 letters to Iranian POW's.

He added that the Iranian regime continued to torture, pressure, and coerce our prisoners in an attempt to change their political and religious doctrines. The condition of the Iraqi POW's was described by the former head of the International Committee for the Red Cross by saying: Iran places the Iraqi POW's strictly between two choices: treason or death.

The responsible Iraqi source said that Ansari must remember the murder of unarmed Iraq POW's at Gorgan camp in 1984 and which was condemned by neutral international organizations.

The source urged the world public opinion to pay attention to Iran's inhuman treatment of the Iraqi POW's and called for adopting serious steps to end the aggressive Iranian war against Iraq.

He affirmed that the statements by Ansari and others deceive nobody. He said that Iraq realizes the objectives behind these statements.

The source stressed that Ansari's claims will not make Iraq abandon its commitment toward its humanitarian principles and sound policy of humane treatment of the Iranian POW's in accordance with the rights given to them by the 1949 Geneva Convention.

Communique No 3,014 Details 7-8 Feb Combat

JN081745 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Aabic 1700 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Communique No 3,014 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 8 February]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our brave Armed Forces have marked the glorious 8 February revolution anniversary by renewing the pledge to the people and their leader to remain a militant vanguard in the victorious Iraqi procession in defense of Iraq and its people, as well as the Arab nation and its sanctities and aspirations. The Armed Forces pray to God to continue bestowing victory on them and to preserve our leader, the great Staff Marshal Saddam Husayn. The following is a roundup of our Armed Forces' activities for last night and today.

1. Since the backward Iranian regime continues to employ Iran's oil revenues and supplies in perpetuating the war and aggression, and in implementation of our duty to totally and constantly deprive this regime of the pillars and factors of aggression, the planes of our daring Air Force launched a raid on a very large martime target near the Iranian coast at 2255 [1955 GMT] yesterday. After dealing the target an accurate and effective blow, our planes returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our brave units in the I Army Corps northern sector dealt violent blows with all weapons to groups of enemy personnel, positions, equipment, and vehicles. The enemy sustained the following losses: 119 scoundrels killed and others wounded; 14 various vehicles set ablaze and destroyed, 2 of which were carrying personnel; one tubular launcher destroyed; 13 ammunition dumps blown up; and 12 infantry positions destroyed.

3. Our units in the Special I Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces, dealt effective blows to the enemy positions opposite them killing 12 scoundrels. They also destroyed five infantry positions, one weapons emplacment, and one medium machinegun.

4. Three vehicles loaded with hardware were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah one enemy soldier was killed, one gun and one machinegun emplacment were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

6. Two scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Two ammunition dumps were blown up in the V Army Corps northern sector.

8. Six infantry positions were destroyed and two vehicles were damaged in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

9. In the VII Army Corps sector one infantry position was destroyed, killing those manning it, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

10. Yesterday, eight enemy boats approached the Al-Amiq Port. The port's brave force confronted them with their weapons and forced them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 8 February 1988

Peres Views Jordan, PLO Role in Talks
TA081807 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] It has been 2 months since the beginning of the riots in the territories, and the foreign minister talks about the duty of politicians, in addition to that of the IDF. The vice prime minister says that Israel is unable to solve the problem of rioters armed with stones due to self-imposed moral restrictions. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports:

[Begin Hecht recording] It is possible to begin negotiations with the PLO as soon as tomorrow morning, says the foreign minister. The PLO is ready for such a step, even without an international conference. The result of these negotiations, however, as Shim'on Peres knows, would be a Palestinian state, with a Palestinian army with Soviet weapons, 100 meters away from the Knesset. On the other hand, he believes that the negotiations with Jordan will be based on the following principles:

[Peres] The Jordan River will be Israel's security border. This means that no Arab or foreign army will cross the Jordan River, that the IDF will be deployed along that border, that Jerusalem will remain a united city and the capital of Israel, without any open borders. [passage omitted]

[Hecht] If we give Gaza to the Jordanians, they will fire Katyushas at Ashqelon from there, says a student. Do the Jordanians fire Katyushas at Bet She'an, asks Peres. He stresses that the Jordanians will take care of Gaza using their own methods, which are more efficient than ours. No one will throw stones at them in Nabulus. Peres knows that the Jordanians will take care of the PLO as well, the King having already proved his abilities in this matter. [end recording]

The foreign minister answered students' questions in the Gilbo'a Regional Council.

Peres Proposes Jordan River as Security Border
TA081648 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Why should Israel be in charge of everyday life in Nabulus and Hebron, Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres asked today during a tour of the Gilbo'a Regional Council. Our correspondent Menahem Horowitz accompanied him:

[Begin recording] [Horowitz] Shim'on Peres explained to the Nir Ha'emeq High School students what he thinks about the future of the territories. The Jordan River will be Israel's security border, and Jerusalem will remain united.

[Peres] I see no reason why we should control life in Nabulus. What for? Why should we decide about everyday events in Nabulus or Hebron? Tell me why? If we do, we will constantly be confronted with rocks. Our hands are tied with regard to handling stone throwers, although these limitations are self-imposed. We imposed these limitations because we loath the idea of animal behavior. If the Jordanians are responsible for Hebron, they will do things differently, and possibly even better.

[Horowitz] The soldiers carry out certain jobs in the field, but it is the leaders who must make decisions.

[Peres] Certain things are up to the politicians, and they must not shirk this responsibility. They must muster the courage and strength to approach the people honestly and sincerely and tell them what should be done. We know what should be done, and must say as much. [end recording]

Shamir Rejects Joint Meeting With Peres, Murphy
TA091414 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has suggested that both he and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir receive U.S. envoy Richard Murphy for a joint meeting. The foreign minister said that the prime minister turned down the suggestion. Our Knesset correspondent Natan Gutman reports that at a Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee session, Minister Peres welcomed the U.S. peace plan.

On other issues, the foreign minister said Israel has no intention of sending an ambassador to Austria at the moment.

Minister Peres has sent a sharply worded message to his Greek counterpart about his agreement to send the deportees boat and for extending aid to it.

Beilin, Jordanian Officials on U.S. Initiative
JN090640 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Our political correspondent reports that Dr Yosi Beilin, Foreign Ministry political director general, met in Brussels this week with Jordanian officials and discussed with them the stands of Jordan and Israel on the current U.S. initiative on the Middle East issue.

Peres Discusses Territories, U.S. Initiative
TA090733 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Telephone interview with Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by program moderator David Grossman and political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami—live in the studio]

[Text] [Grossman] Good morning to the guest of this morning's newsreel, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The riots in the territories have been going on for 2 months already. Would you have believed this would be the case?

[Peres] Look, it is very difficult to predict things. These riots were not foreseen. They have lasted for a very long time. In all honesty, I did not think they would last this long.

[Grossman] Do you believe that a political move with King Husayn can calm down the keffiyeh-wearing shabab [Arabic for youths]? It is said that they do not even obey the PLO.

[Peres] We are faced with several problems, not only that of the shabab. In my opinion, Israel should exercise a policy made up of two elements: first, a calm and cool-headed no to the riots and rioters; second, a yes to a political solution or move. Stone throwing is surely not the main problem. Our main problem is the demographic one. If, as suggested by right-wing people, we annex another 1.5 million Arabs, Israel will run the risk of not remaining a Jewish state. We must prevent this from happening because of our own interests, not because of the Arabs'.

It is said that they would ask for Hebron today and Tel Aviv tomorrow. I am not suggesting that we comply with their requests. I am suggesting that we comply with clear Jewish requirements, that we work on our behalf, for our future. The second element concerns our international status. This should not be underestimated. Israel is dependent on economic ties with the outside world, including Europe, as well as on security and aid links with the United States. Support for Israel is influenced by public opinion, among other things. This is not a theoretical matter. We cannot be a people dwelling alone [allusion to Biblical verse in Numbers, Chapter 23, Verse 9]. Therefore, the launching of a political move will be the only chance of balancing the pictures appearing on television screens.

[Ben-'Ami] Still, it is not certain that this will calm down tempers.

[Peres] No, it is not certain that this will calm down tempers, but I am not proposing the political move because of the riots. I am not proposing it to make sure that the riots stop. I would like to add though that another chance may arise, although I cannot speak in absolute terms. The problem in the Arab world is not who is representing whom or who is representing the stone throwers. The problem in the Arab world is who can rule whom, who can take control. When we assume control, it is one people against another people, whereas when Arabs assume control over other Arabs, it is within the same people. Therefore, the Jordanian king, for example, can do within his country things we cannot conceive of doing within our country.

[Grossman] Mr Peres, do you not think that the problem also lies within the Jewish world, which has two (?opinions) regarding the political move?

[Peres] No question about this. Shabtay Tevet [Israeli writer] justly wrote recently that David Ben-Gurion was always apprehensive about the stance of the international community and the stance of the Jewish world. We cannot accept that some people in the State of Israel are trying to throw sand in our eyes.

However, let me repeat: The problem is who can take control of the situation that has been created. In my opinion, Jordan is presently the only power among the Arabs that can do this. This is a kingdom that has the ability to make decisions, an army to implement them, and a police force that can be put into action. I do not believe that the PLO's public relations officials or anybody else are capable of doing this. We can sit down with Husayn at once. We could have sat down with him as far back as 6 months ago.

This process is being delayed by unjustified panic. Also, the trouble is that the Likud has been derailed. After all, in 1977 the Likud was in favor of an international opening. The Likud is now led by more radical people, people who did not even agree with Camp David.

[Ben-'Ami] We are moving forward and envoy Murphy is due to arrive here. The answers are more or less clear, and so is King Husayn's stance on the U.S. initiative. Are you hanging any hopes on this initiative by Washington?

[Peres] First, I thing we should do everything we can to launch a political move. We live in a region that can go to war without the United States but cannot make peace without the United States. We need the United States for peace more than we do for war. The United States has taken the initiative. Why say no to it again? Let us sit down with the U.S. representatives and hear their proposals. Even if this stands a 1 in 100 chance, it is worth our while to exhaust it. What else is there for us to do? Should we employ only military means?

[Ben-'Ami] You are familiar with this U.S. initiative. Does it seem right to you? Is the timetable right?

[Peres] I do not know all the details, but to the best of my knowledge today this initiative is made up of three parts: an international opening, an interim arrangement, and a permanent arrangement. In principle, I am in favor of all three. We all should be in favor of this.

[Ben-'Ami] In conclusion, Mr Peres, the historians' report on Austrian President Waldheim's Nazi past is about to be released. In view of what is already known—the report that he knew of but was not an active party to war crimes—how do you view the future of Israeli-Austrian relations?

[Peres] This report does not make the continuation of relations easier. Let us say that only some of the charges were proven correct: for example, the fact that he did not tell the truth. What is the significance of a president who is not telling the truth? Why is Mr Waldheim happy

about this and saying that it is true that he did not tell the truth? He is not actually saying this, but neither is he denying that he did not tell the truth. What does it mean to say that it is true that I knew, but I did not commit any other crimes! How can this happen! What sort of norm is this!

[Grossman] We will settle for these remarks. Thank you very much, Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mr Peres. Thank you, too, political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami.

Shamir on Settlers' Role, U.S. Initiative

TA081220 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1142 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] During a visit to the Egged bus company Prime Minister Shamir discussed political matters. Here is our correspondent Ya'aqov Balselbaum:

[Begin recording] [Balselbaum] More than 200 Egged buses were hit during riots in the territories over the last 2 months. The prime minister says that Egged is safeguarding traffic on the roads and backing drivers who are engaged in this job. In an impromptu news conference held later, the prime minister answered questions about confrontations between the settlers and the army in the territories, and about the hopeless coexistence, as Teddy Kollek put it.

[Shamir] There is no confrontation between Israeli citizens in Judaea, Samaria and Gaza on the one hand and the IDF and the security forces on the other. There is full cooperation and full, mutual understanding. This has been the case to date and applies to the future, too. I believe that peaceful coexistence will be established in Israel between Jews and Arabs, since fate has decreed that we live on the same land together.

[Balselbaum] As for the U.S. peace initiative, Shamir complained about the inaccurate reports. The initiative is still being thought out, examined, and prepared. The arrival of Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy in Israel tomorrow will surely help clear up the picture.

What about Syria? Does the prime minister notice any flexibility in the Syrian stance?

[Shamir] I have seen no such signs of flexibility by Syria. To my regret, everything published to date points to stiff and stubborn hostility.

[Balselbaum] The prime minister was also asked about the threats from Lebanon to the effect that if Israel continues its heavy-handed policy in the territories, Israeli POW's held by the terrorist organizations will be executed.

[Shamir] I hope that if anybody is indeed holding an Israeli POW, he will not dare harm him. [end recording]

Rabin on 'Terrorist' Boat, Maintaining Calm

TA091204 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin toured the Gaza Strip today and said he will not allow the terrorist boat carrying the deportees to approach the Israeli coast. Here are excerpts of his remarks:

[Begin Rabin recording] I will not go into detail, but we have no intention of letting them carry out their schemes. [end recording]

Minister Rabin toured the Al-Shati' and Jabalyah refugee camps, where he met with soldiers and commanders.

Regarding violence, the defense minister said:

[Begin Rabin recording] The central question is what will happen, and this should be unambiguously clear and well-defined to all of us: Violence will yield no results whatsoever for the residents save for ongoing harm to themselves. Therefore our goal is to restore calm soon while preparing to maintain that quiet with relatively large forces in the territories as long as this is necessary in order to reach that goal. [end recording]

Shamir Calls PLO Boat 'Ultimate in Chutzpah'

TA091234 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a short while ago in Ashdod that Israel considers the sailing of the PLO vessel from Greece to Haifa a hostile act that endangers Israel. The prime minister was speaking at the annual memorial service held for the Moroccan boat "Egoz" which capsized in 1961 while transporting Jews to Israel. Our correspondent Meron Tzur reports from Ashdod:

[Begin recording] [Tzur] Hostile elements are currently trying to attack the State of Israel, its security forces, and its civilians. Efforts are now being made to deprive us of even the ideal of the return to the homeland. This was stated by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in Ashdod during the memorial service for the Moroccan immigrants who sought to come to Israel aboard the "Egoz."

[Shamir] Evincing the ultimate in chutzpah and hypocrisy, the members of the murderers' organization dare associate this boat with the concept of return to the homeland, saying that it is carrying people who are returning to Eretz Yisra'el. This boat is meant to transport murderers and terrorists who wanted to kill us—all of us, each one of us—to Israel, as a demonstration of a return to the place where they had originally wanted to kill us. We regard this as a hostile act which endangers the state of Israel. The Arab credo of return is a call to war against the entire people of Israel, against the state of

Israel. It is really difficult to understand those Jews and Israelis who have it in them to join this group of murderers and show solidarity with them.

[Tzur] The people of Israel should distinguish between true acts of return, meant to gather the people of Israel in their homeland and strengthen the country, and deceitful acts of hostility aimed at undermining the foundations of our existence.

Today, let us bow our heads in a show of respect for the heroes of the true return, the illegal immigrants, said the prime minister. Let us pledge not to give up before we bring all our sons to Israel. [end recording]

Mordekhay Remarks on IDF Preparedness, Curfews

TA091431 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1105 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Report on interview with Major General Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, by correspondent in the south Moti Amir on 9 February during a tour of the area undertaken by Mordekhay and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Amir] Maj Gen Yitzhaq Mordekhay, commander of the Southern Command, told us that information was received indicating that in the last 3 days, radicals had intended to incite the population and cause an escalation in the riots. He said that the IDF had foiled all attempts at disruption.

[Mordekhay] Each incident is taken care of by the proper bodies present at the site even before it develops into a large-scale event. We initiate numerous preemptive activities. The forces are familiar with the terrain, are well trained, and are capable of arriving rapidly and acting at any location. The results as you see them are proof of that. We knew that there was a high likelihood of increased activity by residents on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. This information was obtained by listening to the broadcasts of various radio stations, and also by analyzing leaflets distributed locally. We were prepared, with the results being that the residents' achievements, if you can call them that, were very small, if any. I hope that the calm will continue this week and next, and that it will bring about a normalization in other spheres, such as trade, civilian services, and others.

[Amir] Do you intend to lift the curfew on the two refugee camps still under curfew?

[Mordekhay] Yes, of course. I believe we will lift them within a day or two, and if their behavior remains as it should be, we will impose no other curfews. Curfews are not a goal, but a means.

[Amir] The trade strike in the Gaza Strip is continuing today. The strike is complete in the city of Gaza, but the market and grocery stores are open. The curfew on the Al-Shati' and Al-Burayj refugee camps remains in force.

Leadership 'Out of Touch' With Territories

TA051240 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
5 Feb 88 pp A1, 7

["First installment" of a commentary by Ze'ev Schiff: "The Surprise and the Responsibility"]

[Text] Now, when people are starting to learn the lessons from the disturbances in the territories and the surprise they caused, one must emphasize that the failure lies mainly with the leadership, with the various intelligence services, and with the various bodies responsible for the activity in the field and for contacts with the Palestinians.

In my opinion, the leaders and many of the experts employed by them have lost their clear-sightedness in everything pertaining to our relations with the Arabs, and particularly with the Palestinians. They are feeding off of information that often clouds their assessments. They find it difficult to free themselves from outdated maxims regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. At best, they demonstrate clear hindsight in commenting on what took place, but are visibly lacking in foresight. Whoever wants to learn what is really going on among the Palestinians in the territories should not trust the information that has filtered down through the Israeli leadership. This is a personal conclusion which I drew a long time ago.

Today the leaders are all passing the buck. Each one claims that he is responsible for only one small aspect of the problem, and sends those asking questions to another, indefinite address. What does Defense Minister Rabin mean when he claims that he is responsible only for security affairs in the territories, and that other questions, such as political ones, must be addressed to others?! Is not Rabin the man responsible for all the activity in the territories? Was it not in his name that the coordinator of activities in the territories prevented other people, including ministers, from holding contacts with Palestinian notables in the territories?!

When these people talk about surprise, they are actually pointing their fingers in another direction. In their opinion, "surprise" is an excuse for failure. The defense minister is angry about the comparison being made between the events in the territories and the surprise of the Yom Kippur War. True, during the Yom Kippur War we lost approximately 3,000 people, whereas no Israeli has yet been killed in the disturbances in the territories.

This latest surprise, however, is even more amazing than the previous one. In 1973 Israel failed to see what was happening in Cairo and in Damascus, whereas in 1987 Israel has failed to understand what is happening in its own home court, in its own bedroom. In 1973 our leadership failed to decipher a single Arab military

move, whereas in 1987 the Israeli leadership has failed to understand the import of a lengthy process. It has proven its blindness by believing that things will continue as they were.

These events prove that the present senior-level leadership is approaching its demise. It is extremely doubtful whether an Israeli Gorbachev, who will be willing to carry out a thorough reexamination and redefinition of Israel's basic aims, will emerge out of this leadership.

In fact, there was no surprise here, but rather deliberate disregard of the situation. A security element had the following to say about this phenomenon: "This is like somebody putting an empty kettle on the stove and then showing surprise when the lid flies off with a great big boom." Even when the experts said that the disturbances were initiated by the local residents, some of them (Shamir) claimed that the PLO was responsible, or that Syria and Iran were behind the disturbances (this is what Rabin said in a news conference 12 days after the disturbances broke out). Shim'on Peres was the first to admit that the residents of the territories were behind the outbreak. Later on, they came up with the excuse that Rabin was also surprised, but what kind of comparison is this? Is this not an uprising directed against Israel from within territory that is under its control?

The Inner Cabinet's disregard for sensitive issues has become notorious in the security community. Recently one of the prime minister's aides told a senior official who wanted to raise an important issue for discussion: Why are you pushing? Our situation has never been better! Despite warnings from experts and security personnel, the Inner Cabinet is continuing to avoid a discussion on the policy toward Israeli Arabs, whose support we are gradually losing. It took days for the Inner Cabinet to convene to discuss the events in the territories. The buck, as President Truman once said, stops in the Cabinet. It is impossible to ignore the fact that Yitzhaq Shamir and Yitzhaq Rabin are the people at the helm while the disturbances are happening.

This disregard is demonstrated, for example, by the fact that the ministers in charge have not even noticed that there is nobody responsible for researching and evaluating the situation in the territories in terms of the overall trends and the political subversiveness. And if somebody is responsible for this, nobody bothered to tell him that he is neglecting his duties.

As far back as Moshe Arens' tenure as defense minister, the coordinator of activities in the territories established a broad consultative network on Arab affairs. His office maintained contacts with the population and zealously prevented any other body from invading its territory. Military intelligence dealt with foreign affairs, the IDF looked at the question from the technical point of view, and the leaders could paint a pretty picture.

The best example of the extent to which the leadership is out of touch with events is a recently issued, expensive brochure commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Civilian Administration in the territories. The cover has a picture of a golden field of wheat swaying in the wind, with an Arab village in Samaria in the background—a veritable kolkhoz. Inside there are dozens of color pictures depicting prosperity and happiness, kindergartens and clinics, residential neighborhoods and industry, and hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are shown to be grateful for the progress they have enjoyed.

Naturally it also says that there is a minority that supports terrorism and opposes Israel. It is to be hoped that this brochure, which is written in the jargon of primitive communist propaganda and is painted in colorful language, will be shelved immediately.

The disregard of the situation extended, in fact, to others as well. Newspaper commentators deluded themselves that the disturbances were insignificant, resulting from the fact that Reagan and Gorbachev have not found the time to discuss the Middle East issue. Dan Meridor's committee on security concepts did not treat this issue seriously in the chapter detailing the various threats to Israel. I pointed this out to members of this committee when the draft of its report was still incomplete. After the report was released in the summer of 1987, HA'ARETZ said that the report "does not deal with the threat stemming from the confrontation with the Palestinians, including the Arab population in the territories and in Israel."

Arabs Urged To 'Boycott' U.S. Mideast Envoys

TA051631 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic
5 Feb 88 p 1

[Editorial: "A Marketing Trip for Rejected Merchandise"]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy began a Middle Eastern trip yesterday during which he is to visit Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Jordan. This trip comes within the context of U.S. attempts to contain the current events in the occupied territories and to foil all international efforts aimed at convening an international conference for peace in the Middle East that would ensure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and put an end to the suffering experienced by the Palestinians in the occupied territories for the past 8 weeks or more.

Undoubtedly Murphy's trip is within the framework of boosting U.S. plans which are hostile to Arab and Palestinian rights. Recent U.S. positions, the latest of which was the American veto at the Security Council, are a practical expression of these plans.

The peace offered by Murphy means nothing but capitulation, subjugation, and yielding to U.S. conditions. This is precisely the option that Washington is proposing to the Arab nations.

The outcome of marketing trips by U.S. envoys to the region affirm the identity of Israeli and U.S. views regarding Israeli measures that are internationally condemned. This calls for the need to ask Arab leaders to stop backing U.S. positions and to boycott all U.S. envoys to the region.

Washington neither wants the peace process to move nor Israeli practices to cease. It does not have any objection to providing Israel with political cover at the Security Council and supplying it with military aid to escalate its belligerency in the region.

Editorial on U.S. 'Contempt' for Arab Nation

TA051605 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic
3 Feb 88 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "What Peace Can We Expect From Washington After This?"]

[Text] Last week U.S. envoy Philip Habib visited Amman and news agencies reported that he carried a new U.S. plan to activate the peace process in the Middle East. Only a few days passed, however, before it became clear that the mountain was a molehill. There is no plan, and the activity is just a pretense aimed at stirring up the feeling among the region's nations and regimes that Washington is concerned about what is taking place in the occupied territories.

This was clearly proven when two days ago the United States vetoed a Security Council resolution calling on Israel to "respect its humanitarian and international obligations and to try in the long-term to advance the peace process under UN auspices."

This resolution, which the United States voted against, was a moderate resolution formulated in a way that would make it difficult for the United States to reject, yet it rejected the resolution just as it has many other resolutions that relate to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

When the United States casts its vote against a resolution that contains recommendations drawn up by Perez de Cuellar to activate the peace process, Washington not only shows contempt for the Arab nation, but also scorn for the United Nations and its secreteriat. This represents an insult to the international community and paralyzes its activity.

In the wake of this, how can we, the Palestinians in particular and the Arabs in general, believe that the United States is serious about seeking a solution to the conflict, or that it is a neutral partner in the settlement process? And what kind of settlement will come via Washington when these are the U.S. Administration's hostile positions toward the Palestinian people?

We here in the occupied territories were not surprised by the stance of the U.S. Administration because for the past 20 years this administration has dashed our hopes, disappointed us, and wasted all opportunities for finding a solution to the Palestinian problem. This administration will discover that the Palestinian and the Arab peoples will not forget these positions, and the day will come when the American people will suffer because their government always tries to gain the enmity of nations.

Village Leagues Leader Views Movement's Demise

TA071055 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
7 Feb 88 p 2

[Report by Uri Nir]

[Text] The last village league recently active in the West Bank—that of the Hebron area—was disbanded yesterday. This brings to an end the activity of the village leagues, which were established in the late 1970's and which received great encouragement from the Civilian Administration in the early 1980's in the hope that they would serve as a counterweight to the PLO.

Jamil al-'Amlah, head of the Hebron area village league, told HA'ARETZ yesterday that his decision to resign from his post came after he reached the conclusion that this body could no longer function in light of recent events in the territories. He said that the village league council approved his decision and in its session yesterday decided to disband the village league entirely.

Yesterday Al-'Amlah explained the situation as follows: "The village leagues were meant to serve two purposes: one was the economic development of the region; the other was to enhance peaceful coexistence with Israel. The first objective is no longer attainable due to Israel's difficult economic condition. We have reached a dead end on the other objective, because Israel is no longer interested in the international conference, is unwilling to speak with the PLO, and is loath to hold serious talks with West Bank moderates. The political right in Israel does not regard us as partners for talks, the left views us as 'collaborators,' and the Palestinian people view us as an empty vessel."

Al-'Amlah said he recently returned from a visit to the United States where he saw the difficult television pictures. It was then he said to himself that "in view of these events we cannot continue."

Al-'Amlah said that he and his men received no threats and were under no pressure to disband the village league. Their decision was taken purely as a result of the events in the territories.

Ramallah, Al-Birah Council Members To Resign
TA081503 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Feb 88 pp A1, 2

[Report by Avino'am Bar-Yosef, Ilan Bakhar, and Shefi Gabay]

[Excerpts] Three members of the appointed municipal councils in Ramallah and Al-Birah announced their resignations yesterday, and several other council members have said that they are about to resign. The resignations are the result of pressure and threats from nationalist elements in the territories and the Al-Quds radio station broadcasting from southern Syria.

Senior security sources have expressed the fear that the resignations of the members of the municipal councils might lead to additional resignations that would, in turn, bring about the collapse of the municipal councils in the territories. [passage omitted]

The people who have announced their imminent resignations are Sa'id Jabir al-Qur'an and 'Isa Tuth from Al-Birah, and Jirjis Hanna Al-Shami from Ramallah. They had been appointed through a coordinated Israeli-Jordanian move aimed at replacing Civilian Administration officials who had previously headed the municipal councils with local inhabitants. Their resignation, coupled with the announcement by Jamil al-'Amlah on the dissolution of the area village leagues, indicates the impact the leaflets distributed by the "United National Palestinian Command" have on the local population. [passage omitted]

Economic Effect of Unrest Viewed With 'Concern'
TA071511 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 7 Feb 88 p 7

[Report by Gad Li'or]

[Text] If the riots in the territories continue, 1988 might become one of the worst years for Israel's economy in recent times. The absence of Arab laborers from work will decrease industrial production and exports. Increased security in the territories, and the dispersal of riots, will cost hundreds of millions of new Israeli shekels [NIS], and will result in a budget deficit followed by increased inflation. The tourism industry is already expecting a sharp drop compared to last year's record season.

This is the forecast of senior officials in Jerusalem's economic ministries who follow the unrest in the territories with concern. At first it seemed like a passing phenomenon, or at worst that it would effect the economy for only 1 month, but the concern now is that it will be long-lasting.

If Arab laborers continue to be absent from work in Israel, economists fear there will be a drop of several percentage points in industrial production in various branches, and exports might be affected. The higher cost of labor (of alternative workers, Israelis and foreigners) will result in lower profits and perhaps even losses for industries and companies in Israel.

One of the biggest secrets at present is the level of IDF and police expenditures on security in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip, and occasionally in Arab areas in Israel, during the first 9 weeks of the unrest.

There is at present no precise calculation, but the estimation is that hundreds of millions of NIS were spent on direct costs, with additional sums for indirect outlays. For example, at the end of last week "Egged" announced that attacks on some 200 buses during the disturbances cost the cooperative $1 million.

There has been a growing concern that these expenses will increase since the ministers of defense and police announced during meetings of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee that even if relative calm returns to the territories it will be necessary to maintain large forces there for long periods in order to prevent a renewal of the rioting. These supplementary expenditures of hundreds of millions of NIS might necessitate an increase in the state budget, and the Treasury warns that this could result in a renewed inflationary spiral.

If the current situation in the territories continues it will be necessary to make the appropriate adjustments in the various economic sectors, such as industry (hiring of new workers) and tourism (encouraging internal tourism).

Ground Forces Commander on IDF Reorganization
TA071657 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Major General Uri Sagi, commander of the Ground Forces Command, has said that the command is now in the process of reorganizing the daily security routine in the territories. Speaking at a news conference marking the Ground Forces Command's 4th anniversary, Maj Gen Sagi admitted that the additional duties imposed on the ground forces have hindered the process of reorganization and affected the training of regular troops. He added that despite difficulties, the Ground Forces Command will be able to tackle the events of the coming year through a different plan of activities, but this will exact a price. He said that the scope of activity in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will involve more troops than had been planned last year, and longer reserve duty might become necessary.

IDF Difficulties in Territories Examined
TA072046 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Officials in the defense establishment do not speculate these days on the possible duration of the events in the territories. Our army affairs correspondent Moshe Shlonsky reports:

[Begin recording] No one in the defense establishment is willing to take the risk of predicting where the events will lead. Are we to expect a further deterioration, a slow burnout, or is this the state we will live with during the next months? Some new location is in the news every day.

The defense establishment has no clear answer as to what extent the timing and location of events are incidental or preplanned. In any event, the incidents are beginning to follow a pattern. A new village or town rises to the news headlines every few days.

The scattering of events requires large forces, immediate information, and mobility. IDF commanders had taken the initiative in the recent weeks imposing blockades and making arrests and nocturnal searches. Yet now, due to the large number of events, the initiative has moved over to the locals. The IDF is constantly on the move. Beatings, rubber bullets, and shots in the air have an increasingly weaker effect on the rioters, while shooting directly at rioters becomes increasingly more frequent.

We have no miracles up our sleeve, a military source said tonight. We are also very confused, but the IDF can take this for a long period. Senior army sources say that the price we pay is in both budget and training, but it is a mission we can carry out. The solution to the problem, however, should not be sought in only the military field say the military sources. [end recording]

Court Rejects Plea for Military Appeals Board

TA070915 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0900 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The High Court of Justice this morning rejected the plea to force the military courts in the territories to institute a board of appeals. At the same time Judge Me'ir Shamgar, the president of the High Court, recommended that the IDF institute such a body to strengthen the rule of law in the territories.

Man Sentenced for Refusing Territories Duty

TA081952 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Reserve Captain Me'ir 'Amur was sentenced today to 21 days in jail for refusing to serve beyond the Green Line. 'Amur, a member of the Movement of Oriental Jews for Peace, joined the Yesh Gvul [There Is a Limit] movement upon the outbreak of the riots in the territories. A spokesman for Yesh Gvul has told our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe that to date 250 reservists have signed a petition against serving in the territories.

More on Continuing Riots, Events in Territories

Jews Vandalize Arab Vehicles

TA070818 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0800 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Vehicles belonging to Arab residents in Hebron were damaged last night. This is reported by our correspondent in the territories Arye Gus. This morning an Israeli citizen called and said that the action was carried out in reaction to the disturbances and the attacks on Jewish traffic.

A military source told our correspondent that the IDF takes a very grave view of this act and that a thorough and intensive police investigation into the case has been launched. The military source believes that detentions will later be made.

2 Wounded in Gaza Camp

TA081027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A boy and a girl were slightly wounded by IDF soldiers' shots in the Al-Burayj refugee camp this morning. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there was a riot there during the funeral of a youth from the camp who died last night. Rumors spread in the camp that he died as a result of beatings. The IDF checked out these rumors, discovering that over the last 2 days nobody from the Al-Burayj refugee camp had been beaten.

Our correspondent adds that early this morning the security forces imposed a curfew on the Al-Shati' refugee camp following disturbances there.

There is an almost total commercial strike in Judaea, Samaria, and East Jerusalem this morning. This is reported by our correspondents Arye Gus and Yaron Enosh. The police are considering lifting the curfew on the village of 'Anata in north Jerusalem for a short time to enable the residents to buy food.

In the Al-Am'ari refugee camp near Ramallah the security forces erected a wall at the entrance to the camp this morning.

W. Bank Youth Death 'Unclear'

TA081221 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] An Arab youth has been killed in Kafr Qaddum in Samaria under circumstances that are unclear. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an IDF unit stopped a taxi from Kafr Qaddum and found a wounded youth inside. The youth was taken to the hospital where he died. The passengers said he was wounded in Kafr Qaddum. An IDF investigation shows that no military force was in the piace. Arab sources told our correspondent that the youth was killed while soldiers were dispersing a demonstration.

2 Wounded in E. Jerusalem

TA081227 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A police force used tear gas to disperse dozens of youths who demonstrated and threw stones near Herod's Gate in Jerusalem. This morning two Jewish boys were wounded by stones when they were walking on the walls of the old city. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports the police are holding 18 suspects in stone-throwing incidents and disturbances over the last 2 days.

2 Wounded by IDF Fire in Gaza

TA081334 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Two young residents of the Al-Nusayrat refugee camp in the Gaza Strip were slightly wounded by shots fired by IDF soldiers. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that several dozen youths gathered in the camp, hurled stones, burned tires, and tried to attack an IDF force which had arrived at the scene. The soldiers opened fire at the rioters' feet, and wounded a 16-year old youth and a 22-year old man.

A teenage girl and a youth were wounded this morning by IDF shots in the Al-Burayj refugee camp.

Jerusalem Strike Continues

TA081450 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] An Israeli car was set on fire in the village of Silwan near Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that youths had pelted the car with stones as it was driving through the village, the car's driver abandoned it, and the youths then set it on fire. Two policemen who arrived to disperse the rioters were slightly injured by hurled stones.

Stonethrowing also occurred this afternoon in the neighborhood of Abu Tor. The police used tear gas to disperse the throwers.

Merchants from East Jerusalem and the old city have recently received written messages instructing them to continue the trade strike 3 more weeks. The merchants have also been warned not to pay taxes and to tear up any documents they receive from the authorities.

Gaza Detainees Released

TA081533 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The security forces this afternoon imposed a curfew on the Al-Burayj refugee camp in central Gaza Strip, following the riots that occurred there in the morning. The curfew in the Al-Shati' refugee camp remains in force. Some 58,000 inhabitants reside in those two camps.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the commander of the Southern Command today ordered the release of several dozen detainees as a gesture of goodwill toward the population, and granted family reunion permits to several dozen families from the Gaza Strip.

Local disturbances took place today in the Gaza Strip, consisting mainly of stonethrowing, the setting up of barriers, and tire burnings. The disturbances were less intense than yesterday.

'Serious Flareup' in Jerusalem

TA081923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] There was another serious flareup in the Jerusalem area. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that policemen broke into the Al-Tur neighborhood on the Mount of Olives ridge this evening following a riot in which stones were thrown and roads were blocked with rocks and burning tires. The policemen hurled tear gas canisters.

Ibrahim Shahid, the Voice of Israel's Arabic-language program reporter, says that the policemen are trying to stop youths from climbing up from the village to the Mishkenot Haro'im restaurant. The policemen use megaphones to call on the youths to disperse and to warn that they might enter the village and impose a curfew.

Police Affairs Minister Hayim Bar-Lev said that the police would not hesitate to continue to impose curfews on villages and neighborhoods in the Jerusalem environs as warranted. Our correspondent Yaron Enosh reports that Minister Bar-Lev made this announcement in the course of a tour of the centers of the last few days' riots in the Jerusalem area. He claimed that the method of imposing curfews on the villages around Jerusalem has proved its effectiveness. Nonetheless, he noted, there is no intention of forcing the East Jerusalem businessmen to open their shops. Minister Bar-Lev added that the police and the border police are in control of the situation in Jerusalem, but everyone should exercise patience until quiet is restored.

Rumor Causes Curfew Violations

TA082056 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The curfew in Qalqilyah was violated tonight after rumors of harassment of residents spread throughout the camp. The rumors were circulated between 1900 and 2000 tonight when loudspeakers in the camp mosques announced that Jewish settlers were attacking the residents' homes.

In the wake of the rumors, residents left their homes and staged riots, despite the curfew imposed on the camp since Saturday. The army had to intervene to restore order.

The Civilian Administration announced that no Jewish settlers had come to Qalqilyah, and that none were there at present. The residents were asked to calm down.

Our correspondent 'Eran Ben-Porat notes that the nine main entrances to the town had been sealed off by the IDF following riots.

Molotov Cocktail at MK's Car

TA090740 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpts] A Molotov cocktail was thrown at the car of Knesset Member Rabbi Druckman near Ramallah last night. Nobody was hurt and no damage was caused.

Dozens of local residents blocked the main street of Halhul with stones and burning tires. An IDF force dispersed the rioters. [passage omitted]

Relative quiet prevails in Gaza. The curfew on the Al-Burayj and Al-Shati' refugee camps is still in effect.

Settler Blamed in Arab's Death

TA080850 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 9 Feb 88 pp 1, 10

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Excerpt] A Palestinian who was shot and killed yesterday in Kafr Qaddum, near Nabulus, was slain by a settler from Qedumim, villagers told reporters who visited the site. The villagers said they recognized the assailant as a resident of the neighbouring settlement.

Military source said no troops had been in the town when the incident occurred, and that the shooting was being investigated by the police, who handle civilian cases.

The villagers gave the reporters the following account:

The settler, aged about 50, arrived at Kfar Qaddum in a blue Volkswagen van between 10:00 and 10:30 with companion, who carried a pistol. A keffiyeh [Arab headdress] was draped on the dashboard.

'Abd al-Basit Abdallah, 26, stood with a group of young men who turned back cars and buses from the village taking labourers to Israel. When he waved back the settler's van, the settler got out with a machine gun, and shot Abdallah twice in the head. A second villager was wounded in the leg and treated by a local doctor.

According to the villagers, Abdallah was put in a vehicle, which was later stopped by two officers in an IDF jeep. After ordering out the three men accompanying Abdallah and frisking them against a wall, the soldiers allowed the driver to take the wounded man to the hospital. The two other men were detained and questioned until it was learned that Abdallah had died. They were freed and told to keep silent about the incident.

Military sources confirmed that the wounded man was discovered when an IDF force stopped a taxi for inspection. Protesters in Kafr Qaddum later burned tires, set up road-blocks, and raised Palestinian flags on mosques, according to the reporters. [passage omitted]

Kalmanovich To Be Detained Through Proceedings

TA091057 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Our correspondent Yasmin Qeyni has just reported that the detention of Shabtay Kalmanovich, who is charged with holding contacts with a foreign agent, espionage, and grave espionage, was extended at the Tel Aviv district court a few minutes ago. The detention was extended until the end of the legal proceedings against him. The hearing was held in camera.

'No Fundamental Differences' With PLO

JN090746 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
9 Jan 88 pp 1, 3

[By Salamah B. Ni'matt]

[Text] Amman—Information Minister Hani al-Khasawinah said Monday there were no fundamental differences between Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and that the Israeli-American position remained the only obstacle to launching a negotiated settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Jordanian-Palestinian relations are not an obstacle to peace," the minister said. "It is the Israeli intransigence and refusal to accept international laws and the universal consensus" on the call to convene a proposed international peace conference on the Middle East, he said.

"The technicality of Jordanian-PLO representation at an international conference is an Arab issue," he stressed. "The responsibility now is on the side of the Israelis and Americans."

He reaffirmed that Jordan recognised the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people. "We will continue to abide by this obligation and will not allow ourselves to compete (with the PLO)."

Speaking to journalists at the "Monday press circle," Al-Khasawinah said Jordan and the PLO were committed to a peaceful settlement that is based on international legality and Arab summit resolutions.

"How the Jordanian and Palestinian sides will coordinate their stands is something that will resolve itself when the conference is underway," he said. "The first priority is the convening of the conference."

The minister said PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat was welcome to visit Jordan to resume talks with Jordanian officials on coordinating policies related to the Arab-Israeli conflict. But he added that there were no schduled talks with the PLO.

"Even if we have a difference of opinion, this does not remove the fact that 'Arafat is the chairman of the PLO and a representative of the Palestinian people."

Al-Khasawinah stressed that Jordan and the PLO "should not go down to the level of competing for the representation of the Palestinian cause. Jordan will not accept to diminish the Palestinian cause."

He said that differences between the Kingdom and the organisation were a matter of "approach and interpretation," and that both sides were in favour of convening the proposed international conference.

The minister emphasised the need to "return to the spirit" of the Jordan-PLO accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11, 1985, for joint action to solve the Palestine question.

He described talks last month between Jordan and the PLO in Amman as "open and positive," conducted in an atmosphere of "brotherhood and frankness."

Responding to a question on a possible worsening in the situation in the occupied Arab territories which may lead to Israel's mass expulsion of Palestinians to Jordan, the minister said such a possibility was not ruled out by the Kingdom.

He warned that "if the situation is left as it is—without a solution—there will be dangerous repercussions to the situation."

He said that Israeli extremists may decide to "rampage Palestinian refugee camps and try to drive Palestinians to Jordan." He said the Kingdom, in cooperation with other Arab states and the international community, would do all it can to prevent such a measure. "This would be a precedent that should not be permitted to happen."

Asked about a reported new American peace initiative, the minister said Jordan welcomes any American initiatives "provided they lead to the convening of an international peace conference, the implementation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338, Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories and the resolution of the Palestinian problem in all its aspects."

But he added that there was "no such thing as a comprehensive new American proposal."

He pointed out that despite Washington's damaged credibility in the region, Jordan backed American involvement in the peace process. He welcomed a reported meeting in Washington late last month between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and two Palestinian personalities linked to the PLO.

He said Jordan did not consider such meetings to imply an attempt to "surpass" Jordan or any other concerned Arab party.

"No one can surpass Jordan regarding the Palestinian problem," the minister said, "because it is Jordan's cause as much as it is Syria's cause and the Arab cause."

Asked why Jordan discourged local public expressions of support to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories, the minister said the Kingdom was not opposed to peaceful displays of support, such as public rallies, in which public figures participate.

He said there were many ways to support the Palestinian uprising, and that "demonstrations are not the only way."

He said that a recent public rally held at the professional Association Complex almost led to clashes among participants, "which made it important to preserve law and order so as not to detract from the Palestinian uprising."

"Let us keep our support away from demonstrations," he said.

U.S. Proposals 'Rejected', Timing Noted

JN081011 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 8 Feb 88 pp 23, 28

[News analysis: "On the Margin of the Murphy Tour" by Rakan al-Majali]

[Text] In Damascus, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Richard Murphy has heard some clear talk, which can be summed up in the rejection of the new U.S. proposals and the U.S. attempt to present an old drink in new bottles, such as reviving the self-rule plan.

This U.S. attempt is rejected first by Jordan, second by Damascus, and third by all the Arabs. Therefore, the significance of the Murphy tour is not in the contents of the U.S. message, but in the timing, which prompts us to make the following observations:

1. It seems definite that during their summit late last year the two superpowers discussed regional issues. Proof of that is the current activity concerning Afghanistan, beginning with visits to Kabul and Islamabad by senior U.S. and Soviet officials and ending with the UN shuttle diplomacy. The Gulf war is also witnessing increasing concern and activity and the Latin American problems are being viewed seriously. Therefore, this activity concerning the Middle East question cannot be isolated from the atmosphere of detente, or understanding, or a new map of the region; in other words, a new Yalta between the two superpowers.

2. The U.S. activity has come, in particular, after the visit to Washington by Shamir's envoy, who conveyed certain specific proposals which Washington is now passing on to the region. In view of the pressure it is experiencing, the ruling authority in the Zionist entity has embarked on political action by presenting fictitious plans and resurrecting the autonomy plan in the hope that this would divert the uprising from achieving its objective of asserting the will of the Palestinian people, and therefore removing the occupation.

3. Statements were made in Washington and Tel Aviv yesterday about the establishment of self-rule with Palestinian participation only. The self-rule idea is based on separating man from land and sovereignty from willpower. It is definite that this popular uprising, which insists on removing the occupation, ending the usurpation, and liberating land and man, is the answer to all the illusions and attempts to cast doubts and split the Arabs.

4. The purpose behind Murphy's presence in Damascus is obvious; it is to isolate Syria from the developments of the Palestine question in exchange for any kind of false deal. However, Damascus is alert to this objective, which is why it has rejected the recent U.S. proposals. The Syrian and Jordanian stands, which are identical, are based on affirming the established Arab principle that the Fes summit resolutions constitute the minimum Arab stand. The assertion by the Amman summit on convening the international peace conference and rejecting any unilateral Arab response to the proferred solutions are the substance of the unified Arab stand. So, no matter what the objectives of the U.S. activity—whether undermining the unified Arab stand produced at the Amman summit or circumventing the uprising, or dampening the idea of a settlement in the region, or any other objective for that matter—it is certain that the Arab nation is alert to the plots which seek to soften the uprising and to shelve the Arab nation's central issue.

Bulgaria's Tanchev Arrives for Visit 6 Feb

JN061245 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, arrived in Amman at noon today, leading an official delegation on a 3-day visit to Jordan. He will hand a letter from the chairman of the Bulgarian State Council to His Majesty King Husayn. Tanchev will also hold talks with Deputy Prime Minister Dhuqan al-Hindawi and other officials and visit cultural and development sites in Jordan.

On hand to welcome him at Amman airport were Al-Hindawi; Occupied Territories Affairs Minister Marwan Dudin; the Foreign Ministry's secretary general; the ambassadors of Bulgaria, the USSR, and CSSR; and the charges d'affaires of the GDR and Poland in Amman.

The Bulgarian delegation is made up of the deputy foreign minister and a number of other officials.

Official Talks Begin

JN062035 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Official talks between Jordan, led by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister, and Bulgaria, led by Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, began at the prime minister's office this evening.

Talks dealt with political developments in the Middle East, headed by the Palestine question, and efforts to achieve peace in the region. The two sides stressed their support for the efforts to bring about a just and lasting

peace in the Middle East within the framework of an international conference for peace. This conference is to be attended by all parties to the conflict, including the PLO, and the permanent Security Council member states. Regarding the Iraq-Iran war, the Jordanian and Bulgarian sides stressed the need to support the efforts aimed at ending this war by implementing Security Council Resolution 598. Talks also dealt with aspects of cooperation between the two countries and ways to enhance and consolidate this cooperation, particularly in the economic and trade fields.

Attending the talks on the Jordanian side were Marwan al-Humud, minister of agriculture; Dr Fayiz al-Tarawinah, minister of state for prime ministry affairs; the director general of the cooperative organization; and the director of the economic cooperation desk at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. They were attended on the Bulgarian side by the deputy foreign minister, the deputy minister of foreign trade relations, the political adviser to the deputy chairman of the State Council, the Bulgarian ambassador in Amman, and a number of experts.

Call for Peace Conference

JN071139 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, has lauded the principled stands of the People's Republic of Bulgaria toward Arab causes, foremost of which is the Palestinian question.

In a speech during a dinner banquet at the Mariott Hotel last night in honor of Petur Tanchev, first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, and his accompanying delegation currently visiting Jordan, Al-Hindawi said that Jordan, under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn, has made very possible effort to solve the problem in accordance with the bases of justice and equity which the will of the international community recognizes, and which are represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He said Jordan has, therefore, called for an international peace conference under the auspices of the United Nations, to be attended by all concerned parties including the PLO, and with the participation of the Security Council permanent members, in order to bring about a just and lasting settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is in accordance with the previously mentioned resolutions which do not allow the aquisition of others' territories by force and guarantee the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories and the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Al-Hindawi expressed hope that Bulgaria will also continue its support for convening the international conference, and that Bulgaria, together with all socialist countries, will exert further efforts and determination to force Iran to implement Security Council Resolution 598 which calls for ending the Iraq-Iran war.

In a reply speech, Tanchev expressed hope for promoting bilateral cooperation in the interest of Jordanian and Bulgarian peoples. He praised Jordan's historical heritage and stressed Bulgaria's support for Jordan's international initiatives to defend peace and peoples security, especially King Husayn's efforts to bring about peace in the Middle East.

He pointed out that the convening of an international conference is the only means for achieving this end. He said: We welcome the Amman summit resolutions which represent a step toward unity and understanding in the Arab world. The success of the summit is a testimony to the growing role of His Majesty King Husayn, and to the fact that Jordan has become an active and constructive factor in the region.

Concluding his speech, he expressed satisfaction with his talks with Jordanian officials which highlighted many possibilities for promoting bilateral ties in the political, economic, and cultural fields, especially since the stands of both countries vis-a-vis many important international issues are identical.

The dinner was attended by the chief chamberlain, a number of ministers, members of both houses of Parliament, the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court, the doyen of Arab diplomatic corps, and a number of senior officials.

Prince Hasan Receives Tanchev

JN071814 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received in his office at the Royal Hashemite Court today Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council. The meeting was attended by Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; Dr Bassam al-Sakit, secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court; and the Bulgarian ambassador to Jordan.

Meeting With Al-Lawzi Noted

JN071812 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Amman—Senate President Ahmad al-Lawzi has asserted that Jordan, as a result of its wise policy and due to His Majesty King Husayn's role in enhancing ties of friendship with all world peoples, has occupied an important position in Arab, regional, and international politics. This position is also due to the truthfulness, frankness, justice, and wisdom of Jordan in its various policies, he added.

Receiving Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, and his accompanying delegation at the Parliament building this morning, Al-Lawzi said the Palestine question is the essence of conflict in

this region as long as there is no lasting and comprehensive solution to it. The ongoing popular, mammoth uprising by the kinfolk on the West Bank and Gaza Strip is aimed against the Israeli aggression, injustice, and humiliation, which have been continuing as a result of the Israeli occupation of Arab lands for 20 years. The uprising is also a result of ignoring the Palestinian people's national rights and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Al-Lawzi said Israel is characterized by racism, fascism, and aggression, and continues to reject all UN resolutions. Israel also pursues violence and terrorism against the Palestinian people and those of the region. Al-Lawzi lauded relations between Jordan and the socialist states. He reviewed the continued development of these relations, which aim to achieve further prosperity, security, and stability. He added that Iran still involves millions of its people in the Gulf war and imports weapons from around the world to threaten the security and stability of the Arabian Gulf region through its regime's views. These views are characterized by fanaticism and narrow-mindedness, which are similar to those of the Israeli regime—a regime that is based on religious allegations that date back to the middle centuries. Al- Lawzi also briefed the visiting delegation on Jordanian parliamentary life and the structure of the Parliament, which comprises Senate and House members. This Parliament has been representing the unity of the two banks since its establishment in 1950. He also briefed the delegation on the separation among the executive, legislative, and judicial authorities.

Petur Tanchev, first deputy chairman of the Bulgarian State Council, made a reply speech. He said: We highly appreciate His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to hold an international conference for peace and to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. In our view, an international conference is the only way to acheive a lasting and comprehensive solution in the Middle East. In this particular phase, and following radical changes in international politics through negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States, and also in the wake of the signing of an agreement between the two superpowers, there is a way open to bring about a solution to the problem of the Middle East, which is an important and dangerous world region.

Tanchev added that Israel's possession of atomic weapons constitutes a great danger in the region. Therefore, we appreciate the wise policy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in this region, he said. He lauded the results of His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Moscow. This visit enjoyed the attention of all Bulgarian circles and the socialist states. These circles also support His Majesty King Husayn's efforts to hold an international conference. He said the Palestinian people's uprising is irrefutable evidence that the Israeli occupation of Arab lands cannot continue amid world concern about what is taking palce there.

Attending the meeting were Dhuqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and education minister; members of Palriaments' standing office; the secretary general of Parliament; and the acting head of the Jordan Valley Authority.

Minister Dudin Meets Popov

JN081342 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Acting Foreign Minister Marwan Dudin received at the Foreign Ministry this morning Lyubomir Popov, Bulgarian deputy foreign minister. They resumed a discussion of international issues, with special emphasis on the popular uprising in the occupied Arab land, and Israel's repressive measures contrary to international conventions. They also discussed efforts to convene an international Mideast peace conference, the Iraqi-Iran war, and UN Security Council Resolution 598 calling for an end to the war.

The Bulgarian deputy foreign minister expressed his country's support for efforts to convene an international conference and its appreciation of His Majesty King Husayn's efforts in this regard. He said his country will not spare itself for convening the conference.

Dudin and Popov voiced their satifaction with the progress of relations between Jordan and Bulgaria.

Visit Reviewed, Departure

JN081719 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Petur Tanchev, first vice president of Bulgaria's State Council and secretary of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union, left Amman this afternoon at the end of a 3-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit, Tanchev met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, and ranking officials.

Tanchev said that during his talks with Jordanian officials he sensed an identity of views on all of the topics discussed, particularly on the need to convene an international Middle East peace conference with the participation of the five UN Security Council permanent members and all the parties to the conflict, in order to settle the Middle East crisis. He said Bulgaria appreciates Jordan's continuous endeavors to support peace efforts and that these efforts have led to the adoption of the idea of an international conference by the majority of world countries. Tanchev said his country condemns the arbitrary measures the Israeli occupation authorities are carrying out against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories. He pointed out that his country continuously supports Arab causes.

On the Iraq-Iran war, Tanchev said his country believes in the need to end this war through peaceful means, because a military solution cannot end it.

Tanchev also praised Jordanian-Bulgarian relations. He said his visit was successful from all aspects and that the two sides discussed ways to bolster relations between the two countries in the trade, economic, and political fields. He expressed thanks and appreciation for the warm welcome he and his delegation were accorded.

Duhqan al-Hindawi, deputy prime minister and minister of education, senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the Bulgarian ambassador in Amman saw him off at the airport.

Armed Forces Commander Returns From France
JN081652 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Field Marshal Al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, Armed Forces commander in chief, returned to Amman this evening at the end of an official visit to France during which he accompanied His Majesty King Husayn and held talks with the French defense minister. Staff Lieutenant General Fathi abu Talib, chief of staff; the Armed Forces inspector general; and the assistants to the chief of staff welcomed him on arrival.

Kidnappers Agree To Release UNRWA Captives
NC082040 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Walid Khalid, spokesman for the Fatah Revolutionary Council led by Abu Nidal [Sabri al-Banna], has stated that the kidnappers of the UNRWA employees—Sweden's Jan Stening and Norway's William Jorgensen—have agreed to release the two hostages. He noted, however, that there is no indication as to when they will be released.

Khalid added: We have identified the kidnappers and the place where the two UNRWA employees are being held. After pressure, the kidnappers promised to release them.

Meanwhile, a spokesman for UNRWA said that he has no idea as to why their release is being delayed.

Captives Held in 'Sidon Area'
LD082127 Kuwait KUNA in English 1958 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] United Nations, Feb 8 (KUNA)—The two kidnapped staff members of UNRWA, the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees, are being held in the Sidon area, UNRWA said Monday.

The agency did not disclose the origin of its information and said only UNRWA's field director in Lebanon was in Sidon and had been in contact with local leaders, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The kidnappers still have made no demands and the motivation behind the abduction is not known, a U.N. spokesman said.

The two staff workers are Jan Stening of Sweden and William Jorgensen of Norway.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has condemned the kidnapping last week, calling for their immediate release and urging the Lebanese Government to do all in their power to free them.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Development Programme has indicated it may drop plans for reopening of its Lebanon operation, thus putting in doubt the 10 million dollars in development aid earmarked for Lebanon over the coming five years.

Former Employees Involved
NC090635 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Certain sources, citing reliable security reports, say that the kidnappers of the two UNRWA officials are themselves former UNRWA employees who were accused of stealing medicines, foodstuff, and medical preparations and selling them in the local market. As a result of these activities, UNRWA dismissed them. They retaliated by kidnapping the two officials.

Meanwhile, informed sources in Sidon have stated that the two UNRWA officials will be freed in the next few hours.

Iranians 'Took Control' of Schray Case
NC081720 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has reported that the Iranian delegation which visited Beirut last week took control of the Schray [FRG hostage] case without taking Syrian interests into consideration. According to the agency, Schray has been hidden, and 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah, the leader of the kidnappers, has been moved to Tehran. The same agency cites diplomatic sources as saying that the Iranians have decided to tighten their grip on the FRG hostages in view of the FRG Government's inaction on Tehran's request to import the raw materials needed for the production of chemical weapons.

Gunmen Try To Kidnap Fijian UNIFIL Officer
NC090651 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The Internal Security Forces foiled an attempt to kidnap a UNIFIL officer of Fijian nationality in West Beirut at 0100 today. Security sources told Voice of Lebanon that the kidnap attempt began when three gunmen in an orange BMW chased the car of Fijian officer (Lili Sirivako). The officer took refuge at a police post near the British Embassy in the Al-Rawshah area.

The situation became tense and the gunmen threatened to shoot the policeman if he did not hand the UNIFIL officer over to them. The gunmen produced military identity cards showing that they were members of the Syrian intelligence service. They said that they wanted to take the UNIFIL officer to the Beau Rivage area [headquarters of the Syrian forces in West Beirut]. The policeman, however, summoned members of Internal Security Forces patrols, and when they arrived the gunmen escaped to an unknown location. The Fijian officer was taken to East Beirut later this morning.

Resistance Clashes With 'Enemy Force' in South
NC081530 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] A fierce battle has taken place between resistance fighters and an enemy force that was advancing toward Jabbur Hill in the western Al-Biqa', leaving about 10 enemy soldiers killed or wounded. One resistance fighter was martyred and another was wounded in the clash.

Israeli Planes Continue Flights Over Sidon

NC081413 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli fighter aircraft have flown intensive reconnaissance sorties over Sidon and the nearby camps. The planes also carried out mock raids and were confronted with ground defense fire.

Further Israeli Flights

NC091010 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew at high altitude over Sidon and its Palestinian camps several times this morning. The warplanes reached as far as the capital and the mountain area, where they broke the sound barrier at 1115.

4 Deported Palestinians Fly to Cyprus 8 Feb

NC081421 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Four deported Palestinians left Beirut Airport on board a Middle East Airlines plane bound for Larnaca at 1345 today. An International Red Cross car took them to the airport.

CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY Now Daily to Europe

NC081857 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] As of today, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY has begun a regular daily distribution of its bulletin to subscribers and media in Paris, London, and Geneva. The CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY is thus the first Lebanese news agency to provide, via satellite, daily news about Lebanon and everything connected with the Lebanese situation on the regional and international level to interested parties abroad, so thaty they may be constantly informed of all aspects of events in Lebanon. In addition to daily news, the bulletin to Europe will carry a detailed political report that includes a Lebanese press review and the most important information and comments on Lebanese, regional, and international issues, as well as various economic, security, and political reports.

TISHRIN Berates U.S. Stand on Territories

JN070833 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 7 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Revolution Will Continue," TISHRIN says: Despite the Egyptian regime's claim that the initiative it has put forth is an indivisible whole and that the provision on halting the uprising cannot be separated from the other provisions, the United States supported only the provision on the uprising. We must not forget that the Egyptian regime's initiative is merely a reprieve given to the U.S. Administration, the Zionist entity, and those who are revolving in their orbit.

That is why political activities were reinvigorated within the U.S. Administration, which is living its last days before handing power over to the candidates who most support the Zioinst lobby and its entity in Palestine.

Envoy Murphy came to the region to resume the diplomacy of sounding out stands to pave the way for halting the uprising and attenuate the impact it has had on international public opinion, particularly that in the United States.

Through its attempts to ease the tension and attenuate the impact the uprising has had on international public opinion, which will lead to the protection of its interests and those of Israel, the U.S. Administration seeks to divert attention from the facts of the revolution in the occupied Arab territories with a propaganda clamor that will decrease the worldwide impact of the uprising and obscure the Zionist enemy's measures of oppression, which are also denounced worldwide. The purpose of all this is to create a more propitious atmosphere to check the influence of international public opinion, including that of the U.S. ruler, who is governed by the Zionists.

The U.S. Administration has been exhausting the region politically and economically over the past 40 years. It now wagers on quelling the revolution before its flames reach friends in the region, whether in the Camp David arena or in the arena of the deviationist Palestinian rightwing.

No matter how much pressure the U.S. Administration resorts to and no matter how extensive its military support for Israel, not to mention the political coverage it provides, the realities, facts, and figures of the revolution in the occupied homeland, which are based on the pan-Arab stand on the Arab-Zionist conflict adopted by Syria and its leader, show that neither force nor treason can impose capitulation on the Arabs, make them abandon their rights, or let them give up their right to liberate the land. That is why the revolution will continue.

U.S. Wants 'Phases of Arab Concessions'

JN081054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 8 Feb 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Phases of Washington", TISHRIN says: In the region the United States acts on the basis that it has the means to achieve and market what it wants. Thus, at times it mixes fun with seriousness, and at others threats with promises. Otherwise, what else would it mean when U.S. envoys herald a phased solution to the Middle East issue while Washington and Tel Aviv will soon be busy with elections. If we place the U.S. promise of a solution in its proper context, and if we put it to the test, we will conclude that the United States neither has nor offers solutions, either packaged or phased. In fact, the United States does not want to see any solution and will not allow any solution which does not directly serve Israel at present and in the future. However, Washington was forced to export this promise because it wants to implement a phased timetable for Arab concessions after it has received worldwide criticism at the United Nations. Therefore, Washington created its timetable in light of the danger of the current situation in the occupied territories. Washington does not want the Palestinian uprising to be ahead of it, so as not to further embarrass its friends in the region. Therefore, the phases being talked about by the United States are the phases of Arab concessions. However, the unanswered question remains: How can the fires in the West Bank and Gaza Strip be extinguished before they spread further?

U.S. 'Incremental Solutions' Not Needed

JN081608 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1234 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Station commentary]

[Text] U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Mr Richard Murphy arrived in Damascus 2 days ago within the framework of a tour of certain countries in the region. Mr Murphy conveyed a written message to President Hafiz al-Asad from U.S. President Ronald Reagan on the region's developments and the U.S. Administration's concern for them. He also held talks with President Hafiz al-Asad, Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. News agencies indicated that the long time taken by Murphy's talks with the Syrian officials was commensurate with the importance the U.S. Administration is attaching to talks with Syria at the stage of activating U.S. efforts in the region. Previously, these efforts have not led to any real positive contribution to pushing matters toward a real peace.

In their statements, the U.S. officials emphasize the importance of winning Syria's support for what they term the peace process, or the efforts to deal with the

situation resulting from the uprising of the Israeli-occupied Arab territories' inhabitants against the occupiers and their crimes. Some of them recall what has become a fact to many world politicians; namely, that there can be no peace in the Middle East without Syria's approval. In the past, the United States tried to convince Syria to join what it used to call the peace process and to accept certain U.S. proposals on the Middle East, including President Reagan's September 1982 proposals and the U.S. calls for direct negotiations with Israel, not to mention Camp David. However, all of these attempts yielded no results, although the U.S. Administration spared no means—even those of pressure, threats, and slander. Syria's rejection of the U.S. calls and proposals stemmed from a clear, principled stand based on principles from which Syria will never deviate. This stand calls for a just and comprehensive peace based on the principles of the UN Charter and UN resolutions, and on the rejection of partial and unilateral deals and direct capitulatory negotiations with the Israeli aggressors.

The successive Middle East events have proven the soundness of the Syrian stand. They have also proven that U.S. policy has neither established peace nor realistically and radically dealt with the issues that constitute the crux of the region's crisis and the source of tension and war. In the past, Syria's principled stand has not changed under threats or temptation; it will not change now that its soundness, preferability, and suitability for the attainment of a just and comprehensive peace have been proven.

The new U.S. move, which followed the occupied territories' uprising, the intensification of the international isolation of the Israeli rulers, and the conviction of several U.S. officials that the old U.S. policy is no longer fit to deal with Middle East affairs, reflects a real U.S. concern over the development of events in the region and their possible impact on the United States and its policy in the region, and on Israel in particular. This new U.S. move is an attempt to contain the developments, even if this would lead to an amendment of some aspects of the U.S. stance and the way the U.S. Administration is dealing with the region's crisis. But can this U.S. move succeed?

U.S. officials and U.S. information sources close to the decisionmakers in Washington are talking about U.S. proposals for a solution that include a transitional stage for a limited time, to be followed by another stage during which an international conference, which is supposed to resolve the region's crisis, will be considered. This talk is two-sided. The first suggests that the U.S. Administration cherishes the desire to act toward the region's developments and situation. The second, which perhaps results from the continuation of taking the Israeli factor and U.S. commitment to Israel into consideration, includes work to rescue Israel from the plight in which it found itself after the eruption and continuation of the uprising. There is no doubt that President Reagan, who is approaching the end of his presidential term, can act more freely than before, unconcerned about taking the Zionist and Israeli pressures into his forthcoming political considerations. However, half steps are no longer viable or capable of dealing with the situation in the region. Either the entire situation is dealt with out of the desire to establish a just and comprehensive peace far from partial and unilateral solutions according to the two peace conditions—Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the restoration of the Palestinian Arab people's rights—or the situation is dealt with in a new manner within the framework of the old aims and aspirations, and maneuvering and cheating will begin in order to gain time and devise plans and proposals that are meant to rescue Israel from its plight. Thus, the circle of collision will begin to revolve again.

If the U.S. Administration, which is in the stage of international detente and in the last year of President Reagan's presidency, intends to free itself from its subservience to Israel and work for a just and comprehensive peace, then the international conference and a just and comprehensive peace are the way to do so. The conference does not need preparatory stages and incremental solutions.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Speaks on Soviet Troop Withdrawal

LD081940 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1605 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Statement by President Najibullah, place not given—live]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. For several years, a war, in the form of hostile interference, including armed interference, has been imposed on the Republic of Afghanistan. It has inflicted great suffering and losses on the people of our country, and it is still continuing. This has created problems in Afghanistan and has brought about a difficult and painfully tense situation.

From the very beginning the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in accordance with its peace-loving policy, has seriously tried to see that all these problems were solved in a peaceful way without resorting to military means, which offer no hope. In line with this policy, and as a result of the good offices of the UN secretary general, the talks in Geneva between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with the UN special envoy as intermediary, began in June 1982 and are are continuing today.

It should be added that despite the fact that Iran so far has not taken part directly in the Geneva talks, the UN envoy has informed the Iranian authorities of the process of the Geneva talks.

During the course of these talks, the Afghan side has consistently shown political goodwill and the necessary flexibility for achieving a rapid political solution to the situation in Afghanistan. All these measures have been adopted in the interests of maintaining peace in Afghanistan and stability in the region. Now that the talks are approaching their decisive and final stage, I would like to declare once again the [words indistinct] position of Afghanistan in connection with this matter.

Despite the continuation and expansion of armed imperialist intervention in our country, the Geneva talks have succeeded in achieving considerable progress as a result of the constructive position of the Afghan side. The Republic of Afghanistan appreciates the efforts of the UN secretary general and his special envoy in attaining success and progress in the Geneva negotiations. The Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, in order to end war and fratricide and maintain peace throughout the nation, has also announced a national reconciliation policy with a number of dimensions in the interests of peace and security. This policy is a manifestation of the power, wisdom, and foresight of the Afghan Republic and it has been successfully implemented.

The declaration of this policy fundamentally helped to promote a rapid, peaceful solution to the situation in Afghanistan and made it possible for the Republic of Afghanistan to put forward a specific draft plan which proposes the creation of a coalition government that would include the armed opposition groups and the forces which are confronting the Afghan state, as one of our measures to maintain peace in the country.

Afghanistan is an independent and nonaligned country enjoying national sovereignty. The Afghans are the ones who determine their own future. No one can settle Afghan problems but the Afghans. No one should doubt this obvious fact. Those who want peace in our country cannot avoid national reconciliation—the foundation of our search for peace. The people of Afghanistan are noble, brave, honorable, freedom-loving, and the real owners of this proud, free, and hero-nurturing country. Our people want peace and strive for the construction and progress of their country. At this important and vital stage in the development of our country, we rely politically on a multiparty system and economically on the advantages of a multisector and multistrata system.

There is now hope and the possibility that the forthcoming round of Geneva talks aimed at settling the foreign aspect of the issue will be a fruitful final round and will quickly result in the signing of documents of the negotiations. These documents on the situation in Afghanistan include: a bilateral agreement concerning noninterference between Afghanistan and Pakistan; a statement of international guarantees on the cessation and nonresumption of interference; an agreement on the voluntary return of Afghan refugees to their country; a document linking the above-mentioned issue, on the one hand, and the settlement of the withdrawal of the limited Soviet contingents on the other hand; and similar agreements on the methods and arrangements for implementing the signed agreement. All these documents have almost been completed during the 5 years of talks.

In connection with the return of the limited Soviet contingents to their country, it should be mentioned that the preparations for their return were specified in the speech by the head of the Afghan delegation on the glorious occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Socialist Revolution in Moscow. A timetable for their return was agreed upon during the talks between the Afghan and Soviet leaderships.

It should be emphasized that the return of the limited Soviet contingents from Afghanistan is directly connected to the end of interference and the sending of military equipment to the extremist opposition groups.

In order to contribute to a rapid and successful conclusion to the Geneva talks, the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the Soviet Union have come to an agreement. If the Geneva agreement is signed on 15 March—26 Hut 1366—the return of the Soviet forces will start on 15 May 1988—25 Sawr 1367—and will be

completed within 10 months. It will also be acceptable to the Afghan side if a relatively large part of the forces return during the first stage of the period set for their return.

If the agreement is signed before 15 March—26 Hut of this year—the return of the aforementioned forces will begin sooner.

We are sure that after the return of the limited Soviet forces, the military conflict will not intensify in the country. In our opinion, the fighting can be stopped provided that those opposing the Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, who are presently continuing combat activities, take a responsible stand and play a farsighted role in the peaceful activities to ensure a tranquil life for their people. These people should realize that if they refuse to act rationally, they will encounter the iron will of the people of Afghanistan, who demand peace and tranquility in the country, and who are committed to the states opposed to interference in the affairs of Afghanistan.

With this constructive stand, the Afghan side is determined to take part in the next round of Geneva talks with a feeling of responsibility, rationality, realism, political boldness, goodwill, and a firm political stance. Naturally, we hope that the other side will approach it with same spirit. If certain countries or political personalities attempt to delay the signing of the Geneva agreements under any pretext, this will be another indication of their desire to continue tension in the region, discredit the mission of the UN secretary general and his special envoy, and cause the final failure of the Geneva talks process. In that case, the responsibility for all the consequences will rest on those who cause the process to fail. However, we hope this will not happen.

It should also be mentioned that the finalization of the Geneva talks and the return of the limited Soviet contingents should not be linked to the results of the efforts to form a coalition government in Afghanistan. The national reconciliation policy and the creation of a coalition government are completely internal issues and the Afghans alone should implement them.

It is not out of place if I mention the internationalist, selfless, and multilateral assistance of the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union, with good- neighborliness and historically traditional friendship, has always extended a helping hand to the people of Afghanistan. In particular, it has rendered military assistance to the people and government of Afghanistan at difficult moments, when the Soviet sons have accepted great sacrifices in standing by us.

With the return of the limited Soviet contingents, all patriotic Afghans must express their fraternal respect and appreciation, in order to show thanks to the brave Soviet sons who at a destiny-making moment sacrificed their lives and all their resources in the defense of the freedom, independence, and territorial integrity of our homeland. All Afghans must show their respect to these messengers of peace, justice, and progress.

No other country or people in our history has extended their hands and cooperated with our people as the Soviet Union and its people have in these tragic days.

Afghanistan, in accordance with its traditional role in ensuring peace and stability in Asia, and following the decisions of the assemblies and the historical Grand Assembly of Qaws 1366 [December 1987], will not allow the country's territory or any a part of it to be transformed into a springboard against neighboring countries. We want to live in peace and friendship with all neighboring countries.

I am in full agreement with the stand of the Soviet leadership, headed by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU, concerning the issue of the political normalization of the situation around Afghanistan, and I assess it highly.

We expect goodwill and constructive steps by our neighbors, Pakistan and Iran. We hope that Iran will not be left outside the political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and hope that it will play a positive role in this regard.

It is obvious that an end to the interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan is in the interests of the neighboring countries and their people and in the interests of peace and stability in the region. It concerns the international situation, too. Let Afghanistan be the first country to play its historical role, with a feeling of profound responsibility, in promoting international peace and strengthening regional peace and stability.

The peaceful resolution of the regional conflicts is one of the dimensions of international peace and security, for which favorable conditions have been prepared as a result of high-level talks by Soviet and U.S. leaders in Washington and the agreements that have emanated from them.

We invite all true Afghan patriots, including all the various groups of people, tribes, and nationalities, including the noble and patriotic theologians of the country, to be active participants in the struggle to achieve the noble goal of peace and tranquility in the land of Afghanistan. For if this happens, the people of Afghanistan will certainly give up war and gain peace.

Soviet Withdrawal Preparations Said Under Way

OW091159 Tokyo KYODO in English 1127 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 9 KYODO—Western diplomatic sources here reported Tuesday that rumors are multiplying in Kabul about a Soviet withdrawal and some Soviet advisers have left without any replacements.

Diplomats quoted an Afghan source in Kabul as saying that during the last week of January three Soviet experts in the Afghan Ministry of Education departed at the end of their tours of duty and are apparently not to be replaced.

Reliable Afghans in Kabul reported that Soviet dependents were now selling off used household goods in Kabul's Karteh-e Market and giving away goods in Khvajah Bughra, a Soviet settlement near Kabul airport.

Soviet dependents from the same settlement are said to be burying some of their unusuable household goods. Afghan children were seen digging up the goods as soon as they were buried, sources said.

Afghan rumors claim that Soviets have vacated some apartments in the Soviet-built Mikro-Reyon housing complex near the airport.

Diplomats saw another pre-withdrawal sign as the ongoing Soviet-Afghan effort to beef up the defection-ridden Afghan military to take care of things after the Soviets cross the Amu Darya.

The diplomats said that last week senior Afghan Communist Party and military figures were quoted in the Kabul media as calling for augmentation of the Afghan military with new training and expanded recruitment.

East Bloc diplomats in Kabul also reported a Soviet intention to improve the Kabul regime's military forces. They reported new training stints for Afghan troops in the Soviet Union. In Kabul itself, new training will soon begin for older males, 40-50 years old, who have already completed their military service, sources said.

On January 30, some 260 Sarandoy militiamen under the Ministry of the Interior, were dispatched to Moscow for a year-long training course, sources said.

Press-gang activity has also increased in Kabul, with young males being forcibly dragooned into military service.

Najibullah Continues Talks With Cordovez 8 Feb

LD081624 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] At Gol Khanah Palace today, Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met with His Excellency Diego Cordovez, assistant to the UN general secretary and special envoy, who has returned to Kabul from Islamabad.

During his meeting with the assistant to the general secretary, Esteemed Najibullah assured him that as a result of a serious need for peace in the country, the Republic of Afghanistan wholeheartedly welcomes all efforts which contribute to the acceleration of this work, and he himself will not refrain from any cooperation and necessary flexibility in this direction.

His Excellency Diego Cordovez arrived in Kabul this afternoon from Islamabad and returned to Islamabad after having talks and consultations with the president of Afghanistan on a political solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan and after setting a date for the next round of the Geneva talks.

Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister and head of protocol at the Foreign Ministry, and Sh.K. Banerjee, head of the UN development agency, were at Kabul international airport to welcome him and see him off.

The special envoy of the UN general secretary told correspondents before his departure: Yesterday and today, His Excellency Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received me for talks and consultations and clearly expressed his position regarding the next round of the Geneva talks and, in general, regarding the solution to the situation surrounding Afghanistan. I am grateful for the president's firm support for the Geneva process and for his cordial remarks. Now I am going to Islamabad to find out the reaction of Pakistan's Government vis-a-vis the Republic of Afghanistan's stand.

Najibullah Briefs Envoys on Geneva Progress

LD082303 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah received His Excellency Inder Pal Khosla, Indian ambassador to Kabul, this morning and informed him about the stance of the Republic of Afghanistan with regard to the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

According to another report, Esteemed Najibullah received the ambassadors and charge d'affaires of the socialist countries in his office today to inform them on the progress at the Geneva talks between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Mujahidin Agreement on Government Detailed

BK081040 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English
1 Feb 88 p 8

[Text] Peshawar, Jan 31—The Islamic Unity of Afghan Mujahidin (IUAM) in its summit meeting in Peshawar on Sunday finally agreed on the composition of the future government of Afghanistan which will comprise mujahidin, refugees and Afghan Muslims living inside the country.

A spokesman of the seven party alliance informed that this decision was taken in a meeting of the heads of the IUAM component parties held under the presidentship

of Mawlawi Yunis Khalis. All other parties were represented by the party chief except the Afghan National Liberation Front whose leader Prof. Sebghatullah Mujadeddi was represented by his son Zabihullah Mujadeddi.

The spokesman clarified that the alliance had not used the term "government in-exile" or "interim government" to describe their set-up which should come into power after the Soviet troops pullout from Afghanistan in case of a settlement. The IUAM made it clear that it will never agree to join a coalition government in the company of communists and atheists.

The alliance explained that the future government of Afghanistan comprising mujahidin, refugees and Muslims still living in the country will pave the way for withdrawal of Soviet troops, restore peace, oversee the return of Afghan refugees, and help reconstruct the war-ravaged Afghanistan. The IUAM also issued an appeal to all foreign countries and aid-giving agencies to contribute towards reconstruction of Afghanistan after the end of war. It also announced that the future government of Afghanistan will maintain friendly ties with all countries including its neighbours.

The alliance called on all Muslims living in Afghanistan to join the mujahidin as their victory was now near. It advised them to contact the nearest mujahidin commanders in their areas and seek their protection. The IUAM said it will issue special cards which will ensure protection to all those who come over to the mujahidin side.

Bangladesh

Ershad Assails Opposition's Negative Approach

BK090530 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] President Ershad said the politics of peace, stability, development, and progress being pursued by the government will have to be carried forward to its ultimate objective of building a happy and prosperous (?abode) for the nation. He was addressing public meetings at Tamizuddin, Daulatkhan, and Bhola yesterday. The president said democratic minded people of the country will not allow anyone to go to power by indulging in politics of hartal [strike], terrorism, and indiscipline. He said people have already rejected the politics of destruction and indiscipline because they know the fact that negative politics will not bring any welfare to them. He said like the people of Bhola District, the people of other districts would not respond to the call of hartal given by some political parties. This, he said, is a manifestation of the fact that people did not approve unconstitutional and undemocratic activities of these political parties.

The president said progress and development cannot be achieved through indiscipline and chaos. Our problems will have to be solved by (?keeping) self-reliance in every sphere of national life by taking a positive approach to all aspects. He said if we want to survive as a nation we must shun the politics of hartal and indiscipline once for all. Referring to the statement made by some political parties in newspapers that nomination papers of the candidates of all municipal corporations have been submitted through back door, the president said over 1,000 persons have submitted their nominations spontaneously for contesting the 175 posts of commissioners in four municipal corporations. He said these politicians have become puzzled by seeing the enthusiasm among the people for elections.

President Ershad noted his happiness that a (?kind) of enthusiasm has been generated among the people (?centering) on union parishad [council] elections scheduled for tomorrow. This is the demonstration of the fact that the people of the country are in favor of elections and democracy. He regretted that some political parties, instead of seeking the mandate of the people, have been trying to grab power back doors by (?flouting) the democratic laws.

Referring to the parliamentary elections, he said the coming polls are important for the nation because it will decided through ballots whether the people want constitutional rules and democracy or they want terrorism and indiscipline.

Deaths, Injuries in Pre-Poll Clashes Noted

BK080724 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] In Bangladesh, at least 5 people were killed and more than 100 injured in clashes between rival groups campaigning for elections in the rural areas. The rural union council elections are being held on Wednesday [10 February]. Most of the candidates contesting these elections are linked to the main political organizations of Bangladesh.

Partial Parliamentary Candidate List Released

BK080416 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The Election Commission has released a partial list of candidates for 114 seats out of total 300 Jatiya Sangsad [Parliament] constituencies. Three hundred and eighty-four candidates will contest the coming Jatiya Sangsad polls from the 114 seats on the 3d of next month. A press release of the commission says of them 16 candidates were unofficially declared elected as they were the lone candidates in their constituencies. Deputy Prime Ministers Prof M.A. Matin and Shah Moazzam Hussain, Shipping Minister A.K.M. Moidul Islam, Religious Affairs Minister Maulana M.A. Mannan, Dhaka Municipal Corporation Administrator Retired Colonel Abdul Malik, and Minister of State for Energy Retired Major Iqbal Hussain Chowdhury are among those declared elected uncontested. Other elected members are Mohammad Hafizuddin, Hafizabad-3; Dr Salahuddin

Ahmed, Nawabganj-2; Mohammad Zakir Shonar, Nawabganj-4; Iqbal Hassan Mahmud, Shirajganj-2; Retired Major Manzur Qadir, Pabna-1; Abdul Razzak Khan, Patuakhali-4; Alhaj Abdul Jabbar Engineer, Ferozepur-3; Maulavi Mohsin Ali Khan Punny, Tangail-8; Kurram Khan Chowdhury, Mymensingh-9; and Mohammad Matiur Rahman, Gazipur-1.

The scrutiny of nomination papers for the election to four municipal corporations was held yesterday. Two hundred and ninety nominations were found valid for election to Dhaka Municipal Corporation [DMC]. Four hundred and ninety-nine candidates, two of them women, filed their nomination papers for election to DMC. In Chittagong, out of 214 nominations, 212 were found valid.

India

Soviet Initiative on Afghanistan 'Welcomed'

BK090402 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Excerpts] The Soviet Union is to begin withdrawing its troops in Afghanistan from the 15th of May this year. This will be completed in 10 months. The withdrawal is contingent on the signing of the agreements relating to all aspects of the Afghan issue by the 15th of next month. This was announced by the Soviet leader, Mr Gorbachev, in Moscow last night. [passage omitted]

India has welcomed the Soviet initiative. The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has expressed the hope that the new initiative would pave the way for an early solution of the issues in Afghanistan. An official statement issued in New Delhi said India and the Soviet Union have been in close and continuous touch on developments in Afghanistan. India has consistently stood for the resolution of the issues in a manner that would ensure the status of Afghanistan as an independent and nonaligned country. The two sides will remain in close contact regarding future developments and further steps to be taken, the statement added. [passage omitted]

USSR's Vorontsov Briefs Gandhi

BK090634 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has welcomed a major new Soviet initiative for a political settlement in Afghanistan. Mr Gorbachev has just commenced announcing this initiative, details of which will be given as soon as they are available.

This morning Mr Gandhi received the first deputy foreign minister of the USSR, Mr Y.M. Vorontsov. On instructions of Mr Gorbachev, the prime minister was informed of the new initiative of the Soviet Union in regard to the political settlement of the issues relating to Afghanistan. An official statement said that India and the Soviet Union have been in close and continuous touch on developments in regard to Afghanistan. India has consistently stood for the resolution of the issues in a manner that would ensure the status of Afghanistan as an independent and nonaligned country. The Soviet leadership has always shown a sympathetic understanding of India's point of view. In this context, the statement said, the prime minister welcomed the new initiative to be taken by the Soviet Union and expressed the hope that it would pave the way for an early resolution of the issue in Afghanistan. The two sides will remain in close contact regarding future developments and further steps to be taken.

Mr Voronstov also called on the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh. Besides the Afghanistan issue, the two ministers discussed the matters of mutual interest.

Product Exchange Agreement With Burma Reached

BK081605 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Burma is to buy a wide variety of products from India while India will import rice to provide the necessary funds to Burma for the purchase. This was announced at the end of the ministerial level talks between the two countries in New Delhi today. The officials of the two sides will meet shortly to finalize the details. It was also agreed that projects amounting to 100 million rupees will be set up in Burma with Indian expertise. The prime minister offered a project grant for the purpose during his recent visit to Burma.

The agreed minutes were signed by the commerce minister, N.D. Tiwari, and the Burmese minister for trade, Mr Khin Maung Gyi.

Killings, Clashes Continue in Punjab State

4 Killed in Kapurthala, Ludhiana

BK080350 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0402 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, four persons were shot dead and five injured by terrorists in village Kheerawali in Kapurthala District last night. According to an official spokesman, the victims were attending a marriage reception, when some terrorists opened indiscriminate fire. Among the killed were the bridegroom and a woman. In Ludhiana two persons, including a priest, were shot at and seriously injured in separate incidents. In Amritsar District, some terrorists opened fire at a CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] police post in village Bikki. The culprits fled the scene when CRPF jawans [soldiers] returned the fire. There was no casualty.

7 Killed in Amritsar, Gurdaspur

BK090320 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] In Punjab, seven persons, including a terrorists and two women, were shot dead in separate incidents last night. A farmer was injured and his two daughters were shot dead in Dayalbhangay village in Amritsar District last night. At another incident, three persons were shot dead in Valsarai village. Another person was gunned down in Ghashtipura village, also in Amritsar District.

A known terrorist, Narendra Singh, was killed when a bullet from his own revolver went off during a scuffle with two young girls in Chit village in Gurdaspur District. The terrorist, who intruded into the house of a farmer to kill his son, was challenged and grappled with by his two daughters.

Briefs

Atomic Power Unit

The 235 megawatt first unit of the Madras Atomic Power Station at Kalpakkam has been synchronized with the electric grid this afternoon. The project director of the station, Mr K.S.N. Moorthy, told our correspondent that this unit was taken out for maintenance in October. The second unit of the station is also under annual maintenance and is likely to be synchronized with the grid next month. [Text] [*Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 88 BK*]

Iran

3 Iraqi Jets Downed Over Gulf 9 Feb

LD091138 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 9, IRNA—Three Iraqi 'Mirage' jets were shot down in dog fights with Iranian fighters over the Persian Gulf respectively at 06:41, 06:42 and 09:12 GMT Tuesday, according to the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces today.

There is yet no report on the fate of the pilots, the command said.

Imam Receives Air Force Commander, Personnel

LD081143 Tehran IRNA in English 1130 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Excerpts] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Imam Khomeyni at Jamaran Mosque here Monday morning received a group of Air Force personnel on the ninth anniversary of the day when a large group of Air Force personnel met imam and expressed their allegiance to him and to the revolution.

The Air Force personnel were accompaned by President and head of the Supreme Defence Council 'Ali Khamene'i and Air Force Commander Brigadier General Mansur Satari.

The Air Force commander briefed the imam on successful performance of the Air Force and once again renewed allegiance of his personnel with the leader of the revolution.

He said Air Force personnel this day in 1979, met with the imam and declared loyalty to him and to the revolution, and that their gesture should serve as an example to be followed by the oppressed and shackled armies of the world.

Further in his address he said that the Iraqi-imposed-war and active participation of the Air Force in the war marked the beginning of a new move for the Air Force.

More on achievements of Air Force he said that projects which had to be implemented in the next 15 years, were prepared last year and the Air Force reorganised all its units. Furthermore, he added, the Air Force opened new air defence and missile bases and a new Air Force college for training of specialists in electronics, airplane repairs, maintenance, and design and space medicine.

The commander also referred to the Air Force escorting of tankers in the Persian Gulf, to the role of Air Force personnel in various operations and to continuous shelling of enemy positions.

Another constructive outcome of the war, he added, is a campaign for self-sufficiency and production of different kinds of armaments in the course of the imposed-war. At present, he added, the first anti-air artillery is being made by the Air Force and it is in the process of production. In addition, the first 4-crew plane of the Air Force will start flying in the next two months, he said.

President 'Ali Khamene'i in a speech congratulated the anniversary of the revolution and praised Air Force for its move on Feb. 8, 1979. He described the meeting of the Air Force personnel with the imam on that day as an 'unforgettable event of the revolution.' [passage omitted]

At the end of the meeting the imam responded to his enthusiastic and cheering visitors.

Khamene'i Address to Air Force

LD081410 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Speech by President 'Ali Khamene'i at a meeting between Imam Khomeyni and Air Force personnel at the Jamaran Mosque in Tehran on 8 February—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. The blessed 10 Days of Dawn, from beginning to end, recall many memorable moments to the Iranian

nation, and many of those memories will also remain in history. However, some of those moments enjoy a special significance. Today, 8 February, in the presence of the self-sacrificing personnel of the Air Force in 'Alawi School, the residence of the imam and the illustrious leader of the Iranian nation, during those critical days was, in fact, one of the most significant and memorable events. [sentence as heard] In fact, it was the beginning of a road which turned the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and particularly the Air Force, into a model force and an outstanding and elite force, a true model for other armed forces in Islamic countries and in other Third World countries that want to follow the path of the people of God.

The renewal of this memory is very meaningful. It is both a renewal of this allegiance, as well as a sign of evolution in the revolutionary movement of the Air Force, something one can clearly observe in the real world as well. The date 8 February gave to all the glad tidings of a profound change in the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. It was made clear that the main foundations of the Armed Forces and the human bases of that great organization still belonged to the people and to Islam and followed Islamic hopes and aspirations.

During the period of monarchical tyranny, the Armed Forces shared the pains and afflictions of our people and more. The afflictions of our country during the period of monarchical tyranny were due to foreign domination. That domination could be felt in all parts of society, but more so in the Armed Forces. The Americans, and following in their footsteps many other aliens, were placed in charge of the Armed Forces, in military installations, in military buildings, in military departments, in the organization of the Armed Forces, and in the financial infrastructure of the Armed Forces. Truly, for an honorable Iranian and for a zealous and faithful Muslim there was no greater calamity than seeing this powerful arm—whose duty in all parts of the world is to defend the homeland, the independence, and territorial integrity of a country—being so humiliated and scorned by the aliens and being unable to defend itself and its country. Without doubt, the main body of the Armed Forces suffered. Perhaps some of the high-ranking military officers also suffered and felt mental anguish, but that was the policy and that was the direction.

This call of the dear and illustrious imam of this nation who on the day when he arrived in Tehran addressed the Armed Forces and graciously said that this nation, with its self-sacrifice and its blood, wants you to be independent. The Armed Forces responded to that call for independence. The great fundamental transformation of the Armed Forces took place and, in fact, all the obstacles disallowing the faithful, brave, and proud brothers in the Armed Forces of our country to be in the service of the goals of this country were removed. That great force was placed in the service of the aspirations of the revolution. This is a great event which can serve as a model and as a lesson to all other armed forces.

In the course of the imposed war, the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran—and I specially wish to stress the role of the Air Force—have passed many difficult tests at different stages and emerged triumphant. From the viewpoint of equipment, we were dependent. In military science and the science of maintenance and repair, we were also greatly dependent upon the enemy. It was your faith, your zeal, your sincerity, your devotion, and your endeavors that enabled you to make the best use of this equipment, to increase its capability, and to make the best use against the enemy.

The day the war started we were not hopeful that we could remain on the fronts with this equipment even for a much shorter period than this because the figures which we received indicated that certain elements were not very sincere or interested. [sentence as heard] Of course, shortages were also evident; but it was your initiative, capability, perseverance, and devoted efforts which succeeded in creating preparedness in our forces, in readying our equipment for use—a truly valuable aspect.

At the battlefronts, behind the lines, in organizing and drawing up regulations, in manufacturing, in repair and maintenance, in all these fields, the brothers passed very good tests. We hope that this trend will continue.

Thanks be to God, today the situation of the Air Force is very good. It has good commanders and good administrators, the organizations and departments are performing their duties brilliantly, and the attitude of independence and self-sufficiency is vibrantly alive. I should also mention the self-sufficiency jihad as a basic and significant part of the Air Force, for not only have they made self-sufficiency in the Air Force a desired goal, they have also spread this attitude throughout the Armed Forces. This is a very welcome and hopeful trend.

Today our nation and our country has advanced more in 9 years than other countries in their history. Today, from a political point of view, we are in a distinctive position. Today the will of the Iranian nation is decisive in international politics. Today the character and the personality of the leader of this revoltuion and the imam of this ummah shines brighter in the world than ever before. Today our national abilities and the characteristics of the Iranian nation—which has been revived and inspired by Islam and has set out on the path of action—are models in the world for many other nations. Today our Armed Forces are recognized throughout the world as a proud armed forces. Those who see our Air Force, who see its performance, and who also know its past, who see its present and who know its past, are utterly amazed. They know what a miracle you have performed. Thanks be to God, today as a blessing from Islam, as a blessing of reliance upon God, as a blessing of efforts based on faith—and all of these have been bestowed upon us by the Islamic revolution—we have advanced in all fields.

The great honor of this nation is that it possesses Armed Forces which are totally in keeping with the Islamic aspirations of the people. The honor of these Armed Forces is that they are in the service of the people, and it is the honor of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic that they have a commander like this divine and god-like character, this great and noble figure in the history of Islam; this is unique. After the dawn of Islam—when the commander of the forces was the prophet of God, the person of the prophet, or the commander of the faithful—never in our history nor in the history of any other part of the world have we seen any other armed forces whose command and decisionmaking is led by a person who emanates such faith, belief, knowledge, devotion, piety, and sincerity. This is a phenomenon which shines like a luminous star for the whole world and draws the eyes of the world to it.

Let me say one sentence to my dear brothers: They should appreciate the value of these very precious and exceptional opportunities in history. Just now when I came into the presence of the imam so that we could meet with you brothers and so that you could be received by him, I asked his holiness if he has a message for our brothers in the Armed Forces. The most important point, which in the view of our illustrious imam is the most important duty of all the Armed Forces, is that they should try to combine their capability with solidarity and with unity of expression. This is the most important matter. So far, we have been victorious and have advanced as a result of this unity of expression. Your cooperation and your unanimity of views have made you very successful and have made this nation successful. This should grow day by day, and cooperation and unanimity should grow. Side by side with the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which like a champion that has broken its chains, emerged from the bondage of the satanic period, and found the ability to manouver and reveal its capability, and which is placing all its capabilities at the service of its faith and of its people, the vibrant Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has also matured. Both of them are shoots of one blessed tree and branches of one powerful trunk. The Armed Forces and the IRGC are brothers. Our enemies have tried very hard to turn the Armed Forces and the IRGC into rivals, to make them hostile to each other. However, they were not able to do so and will never be able to. It is not true that they are rivals. The truth is that the Armed Forces and the IRGC are two necessary organizations for this nation and for this revolution. They have the most critical responsibility and have divided it among themselves according to the needs and requirements in different conditions and in different times. An armed defense of the revolution, which is the duty of the entire nation, has a sharp spearhead which is the Armed Forces, and the regular forces and the IRGC are at the head of those forces. Of course, it is also necessary to make mention of the security forces; namely, the forces of the Islamic Revolution Committees, the police, and the Gendarmerie of the Islamic Republic who are also extensions of the great body of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic. All of them are forces of the revolution and forces of faith and are servants of the nation. They collaborate a great deal in security and even in military fields, with solidarity and unity of expression.

The message which his holiness uttered was that today, when the enemy is trying to tighten the noose from every direction around you, you should try to increase your unity of expression and multiply your strength through this unity of expression.

I will not waste any more of the dear time and precious moments of our dear and illustrious imam. Once again, on behalf of all the personnel of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially the Air Force, I express my congratulations to our illustrious and beloved imam on the occasion of these blessed days, these critical moments and the 10 Days of Dawn of Islam and the revolution. I beseech God for the well-being of the nation and the longevity and health of our illustrious leader. God's peace and blessings be upon you.

Women's Congress, Teachers Meet With Khomeyni

LD091454 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] On the auspicious birthday anniversary of her holiness Zahra [Prophet Mohammad's daughter], peace be upon her, and Women's Day, today a group of women attending the Sixth International Congress on Women and the Global Revolution of Islam, and a large group of the Mobilization sisters and members of support headquarters from Tehran, Qom, Najafabad, Shiraz, Gorgan, and Esfahan, as well as sisters from the teachers training college and a school for talented girls, met separately with the imam of the ummah.

During the first meeting, a poet from Palestine, who has come to Iran to attend the women's congress and the Global Revolution of Islam, read some of her poems. Afterwards, Mrs Zahra Mostafavi, the secretary of the militant women and the official in charge of the women's congress, made a speech.

During the second meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam [words indistinct] made a speech and thanked the ladies for their presence. It must also be mentioned that the guests of the women's congress and the Global Revolution of Islam, after meeting Imam Khomeyni, also met and conferred with the imam's wife.

More on Musavi Statement on Imam's Decree

NC081028 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The Cabinet met today. Our correspondent reports on the topics discussed during today's session:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The Cabinet met this morning, chaired by Prime Minister Mr Hoseyn Musavi. During today's meeting, the country's

current problems, the problems of the Ministry of Education, and taxation were discussed. In addition, the prime minister spoke about the imam's answer to a letter from officials.

At the end of the Cabinet session, the prime minister spoke to correspondents on this very topic, as well as on Iran's participation in the GCC conference, which will be held at the deputy ministers' level.

[Musavi] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. This answer, which follows the imam's previous directives, will in our opinion be extremely useful. God willing, it will help to overcome the problems that the country's executive and legislative branches are having. The new assembly of experts will be a very qualified panel consisting of honorable theologians and brothers appointed by his holiness the imam. Naturally, the new assembly will be aware of the problems and interests of the country, the people, Islam, and Muslims, and will study problems and disagreements that may arise in these areas. This topic was discussed during the Cabinet meeting and will be reported in the Cabinet's news bulletin.

During the Cabinet meeting it was noted that the imam's message is in two parts—a first and a last part. The last part provides general guidance on our policy, economy, and laws. The imam referred to the dangers of an American version of Islam and warned against failing to set up a suitable model that will inspire hope among the deprived peoples of the world and create in them a movement toward Islam. At present, the influence of the Islamic Revolution in the world is such that whatever we do here is heeded by these deprived and oppressed peoples. Naturally, our laws and movements should be able to mobilize these peoples of the world toward true Islam. The first part of the imam's remarks concerned both the formation of the assembly, as well as the topics to be covered by the assembly. Naturally, a manifesto will, God willing, be drawn up for the imam's approval so that these discussions will progress well and will yield good results. [end recording]

The prime minister continued, speaking about Iran's participation in the GCC conference, which will be attended by deputy ministers, as well as about the GCC members' changed position toward the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said: Usually, delegations are exchanged and discussions are held based on events taking place in a region and on international relations. The Persian Gulf has been the venue of a vast amount of activity during the past few months, caused by, first, the great rush by the arrogant powers to crush the Islamic Revolution, and second, our people's resistance to these plots—a resistance that has practically counteracted them. Under these conditions, the countries in this region have naturally felt the intensity of the issue and have realized our power and our fighters' power and ability to confront arrogance and to oust all foreign powers from the region. Therefore, in view of recent events, based on the Iranian nation's resistance, we see [the GCC countries'] returning to our initial call for Persian Gulf security to be handled by the littoral states. This will allow them to live in peace and calm, and will allow foreign powers to leave the region. Naturally, this policy will not be what Iraq has in mind. As for us, we tell these countries—on the basis of our former call—that siding with a power like Iran and implementing a collective effort to establish calm in the region is better than linking one's destiny with the warmongering Iraqi regime and relying on the superpowers' immense war fleet, a useless endeavor.

Prime Minister Musavi also stated that the first airplane from the Fajr project, manufactured by the IRGC, is ready for flight. The prime minister said that all of the airplane's parts have been manufactured by Iranian experts and that its test flights have been successful.

Musavi Inaugurates Cultural Heritage Office

LD082350 Tehran IRNA in English 1850 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—The Islamic revolution has been an excellent guardian of cultural heritage despite world arrogance's propaganda alleging that the Islamic Republic is responsible for wanton destruction of Iran's ancient sites, said Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here today.

Premier Musavi inaugurating the head office for cultural heritage added that the way the Islamic Republic appreciates art and artists is entirely different from what the antagonists claim.

Before the victory of the Islamic revolution in 1979, he said, global arrogance and its servants tried to inject their corrupt culture into Iran's Muslim society in a bid to change it into a Western satellite so that they might plunder Iran more easily.

Musavi said the Islamic Republic esteems archeology but does not consider it separate from the goals of the Islamic revolution. "But, we should be on guard against prejudiced attempts lest (God forbid) archeology does not keep stride with revolutionary pride."

Also speaking at the ceremony was head of Iran's cultural heritage organization Mahdi Hojjat who said the activities of his organization include archeology, enthnology, traditional arts and maintenance of old monuments. At present, he added, some 50 units are active nation-wide in these fields and the figure will shortly increase to 90.

Hojja. said some 5,000 people have been so far trained by the organization and are presently engaged in reviving traditional arts. Some 4,000 associations for preserving cultural sites have been established with the help of local people throughout the country for preserving cultural sites, he concluded.

Kharrazi Briefs Majlis Speaker on Lebanon Visit

LD081546 Tehran IRNA in English 1530 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb 9, IRNA—Head of the War Information Headquarters (WIH) Kamal Kharrazi met with Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani here today to report on his recently-concluded visit to Lebanon.

He also briefed Hoj. Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the Lebanese Muslims' struggle and their resistance against the aggressor Zionist forces.

The speaker in reply promised all-out support of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the Lebanese Muslims.

Kharrazi concluded his week-long visit to Lebanon and returned home Saturday night.

3,000 Nationals Demonstrate Against Khomeyni

LD072013 Hamburg DPA in German 1840 GMT
7 Feb 88

[Text] Wuppertal (DPA)—More than 3,000 Iranians demonstrated today in Wuppertal against the Khomeyni regime. At a rally at the university, a leader of the Iranian resistance movement "People's Mojahedin" called for "further donations for military resistance to the Khomeyni regime." The speaker announced a stepping up of operations by the National Liberation Army (NLA), which, in his words, had killed almost 10,000 soldiers loyal to the government in 99 battles since a year ago. According to the organizers, there were similar rallies in Great Britain, the United States, and Italy on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the "murder of numerous resistance fighters by the Khomeyni regime."

Reportage on Visit of New Zealand Minister

Received by Musavi

LD080932 Tehran IRNA in English 0908 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi received New Zealand's Agriculture Minister James Moyle here Sunday. Moyle is here for attending a joint Iran-New Zealand agro-commission.

In his meeting with Musavi the visiting New Zealand official said that since his arrival in Tehran he had been warmly received by Iranian officials and had also learned about the various agriculture activities in Iran.

Prime Minister Musavi, in response, thanked New Zealand's agriculture minister for visiting Iran and for his interest in promoting bilateral cooperation. He stressed that the Islamic revolution has had various cultural implications in the interest of the masses and their various activities.

Iranian Agriculture Minister 'Abbas 'Ali Zali and New Zealand's Ambassador to Tehran Edward Richard Woods were also present at the meeting.

Agricultural Agreement Concluded

LD090005 Tehran IRNA in English 1840 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Iran and New Zealand signed a letter of understanding on cooperation in the fields of industry, mines, commerce and agriculture at the end fo their second economic commission meet here today.

The agreement, signed by visiting New Zealand Agriculture Minister James Moyle and his Iranian counterpart 'Abbas 'Ali Zali, also envisages transfer of technology and exchange of experts between the two countries.

The two sides also agreed that the Islamic Republic export crude oil to New Zealand in return for meat and dairy products from that country.

Among other topics discussed at the meeting were implementation of joint projects concerning cattle breeding, improvement of breeding stocks, exchange of data on animal diseases, fisheries, production of seeds and woollen industries.

Four committees for agricultural, commercial, industrial and mineral cooperation were established during the second session of the Tehran-Wellington economic commission.

Meets With Velayati

LD090007 Tehran IRNA in English 1844 GMT
8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Visiting New Zealand Minister of Agriculture James Moyle met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and presented a report on mutual accomplishment in the framework of Tehran-Wellington joint economic commission, here Monday. He also called for expansion of relations between the two countries.

In response, Velayati pointing to the need for expansion of ties between Iran and New Zealand called for frequent exchange of visits between the two countries' officials.

Discussed at the meeting were issues concerning Oceania in the Southern Pacific islands as well as Afghanistan.

Moyle renewed an invitation to the Iranian minister to visit Wellington to which he received a positive reply.

Mo'ayeri Carries Khamene'i Message to DPRK

LD080558 Tehran IRNA in English 0554 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—Deputy Prime Minister 'Ali Reza Mo'ayeri leading a ranking delegation flew to Pyongyang Sunday night to submit President Khamene'i's message to leader of Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Il-song. Mo'ayeri will also visit Korean premier of administrative council Kang Song-san and other officials.

Industries Minister on Imports, Investments

LD090558 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Mr Shafe'i, minister of industries, in an interview today outlined his ministry's policies concerning the allocation of technological licenses and the amount of capital allocated to various industrial projects. Noting that some of those committed in principle to start a project are forced to import technology into the country, he said: The imported technologies do not belong to the importer and are instead considered to be part of the national assets and must be put at the disposal of other industrialists. Those who can plan projects, should these projects be unique, can maintain a monopoly on them for a specified period of time, and these will have priority. Such proposals will be offered to other applicants as a first-class project.

Noting that the implemented industrial projects in the country must be put at the disposal of applicants, the minister of industries said: A center under the control of the deputy minister of industries for planning and projects has been established and will prepare a list of the projects needed in the country. This center will then put these projects at the disposal of applicants. To date, more than 650 research projects have been sent to the ministry by research units around the country, of which some 120 applicants have been selected. Since the start of work by the research units, some 127 agreements have been reached in principal and 27 licenses for research have been issued.

Referring to investment in the industrial sector, the minister said: More than $207 million has been allocated to industrial projects for the current year [ending 20 March 1988]. Projects such as the production of raw material for [words indistinct] and secondary industries that do not use metals have absorbed some $160 million, and a number of proejcts have also used Addendum III [not further specified]. He added: The export of nonpetroleum goods has enjoyed a 25 percent growth during the current year and on the basis of the approval of the Supreme Export Council, factories that import raw material from abroad (?at extra cost) can export goods that are constructed from such materials and pay for the raw material from the resultant income.

Discussing the construction of a paper factory in northern Iran, the minister of industries said: This is one of the important projects of the revolution, and credit has been allocated recently for the basic engineering research that will last 10 months. The factory, which will have the capacity to produce 114,000 metric tons of stationery and newspaper-quality paper, will be completed in 3 years.

Referring to the decisions of the Supreme Standard Council regarding the (?enforcement) of standards, he said: Among the important decisions of the Supreme Standards Council are the use of independant experts to review the various stages of production; the approval of credit for the creation of fully equipped laboratories for the standards organization; the approval of mandatory standards for goods such as disposable syringes, [word indistinct] macaroni, pasturized milk, [word indistinct] cloth, car filters, and [word indistinct] pipes; the recognition of good production units during the year; and mandatory standards for imported goods, as well as mandatory hallmark for high-cost imported metals.

Construction of Communication Satellite Noted

LD082311 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The design project for an independent satellite for the Islamic Republic of Iran, which began last year, was completed on 22 January. With the construction of this satellite, which will be launched during the next 3 years [as heard], the entire country including the southern islands of the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman will come under the umbrella of satellite broadcasts.

According to an IRNA report, the official in charge of the design of the independent Iranian satellite, while announcing the above, added that in a two-phase operation, the satellite will bring to the entire country satellite communication service, television service, telephone service, computer and telex links, facsimile system, teleconferencing, and remote teaching facilities.

Official Meets With UNESCO Chief in Paris

LD060932 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Paris Feb. 6, IRNA—Iran's representative to the UNESCO Reza Fayez met here Thursday with UNESCO chief Federico Mayor.

Fayez urged Mayor to continue UNESCO's efforts for implementing The Hague Convention on protection of cultural heritage, educational centers and the enviroment in the the Iraqi imposed war.

Former UNESCO head had dispatched two separate delegations to Iran to investigate damage caused by the Iraqi air attacks on Iranian historical monuments and educational centers.

During the meeting, the first with the new UNESCO chief Fayez, the Iranian official, touched on the recent uprising of the Palestinian Muslims in occupied lands. He said that the Islamic Republic of Iran can not remain indifferent towards fate of the Muslim Palestinians and the great cultural and religious heritage in the Jerusalem.

Therefore, he added, measures taken by ex-UNESCO head on protection of cultural and educational heritage in Jerusalem should be followed up.

Mayor praising contribution of Iranian culture to world civilisation said that he will continue implementation of The Hague Convention.

On Palestinian issue Mayor said that he is aware of sensitivity of many countries towards the issue and he will pursue the matter.

Industries Minister on Procuring Spare Parts

LD071740 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] Industries Minister Shafe'i in an interview with a Central News Unit reporter in Rasht today announced:

This year $1 billion of foreign exchange has been spent to procure spare parts needed by factories throughout the country. The industries minister added: Since the beginning of the current year [21 March 1987], 1,600 agreements in principle regarding essential industries have been issued. Of those agreements, 70 are concerned with industries related to the production of baby food.

Maneuvers Carried Out in Indian Ocean

LD091448 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] According to an IRNA report, the vessels of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in carrying out escort exercises and joint air and naval maneuvers in the waters of the Indian Ocean, once again demonstrated their fighting capability and strength for implementing the most difficult naval missions.

According to this report, the warships of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the 15th day of their naval exercises, after returning from Sri Lanka, 500 meters [as heard] from the equator, carried out their joint air and naval operations with the participation of helicopters and flight units [as heard] while being closely watched by many foreign ships and warships which were moving in the waters of the Persian Gulf. These operations demonstrated the preparedness and high fighting capability of naval units of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

WIH Denies Iraqi Claim of Shelling Residences

LD082121 Tehran IRNA in English 2050 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8 IRNA—A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters (WIH) categorically denied an Iraqi claim that Iran had shelled residential areas in northeastern Iraq.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, reiterated the spokesman, sticks to its policy of retaliation and would firmly respond to enemy attacks only when Iran's civilian and industrial centers are subjected to enemy raids.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

'Tens' of Casualties in Changuleh

LD081144 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Yesterday in a series of harassing and infiltrating operations, the fighters of Islam delivered blows at the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime in the Changuleh region. The General Staff of the three forces of the IRGC in a communique, announcing the above, added: In these infiltrating operations the fighters of Islam surprised the enemy forces stationed in the Changuleh region, killing and wounding tens of the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime and capturing a number of them. In the course of these operations, some of the medium weapons and equipment of the Iraqi forces were destroyed, and some of their personal weapons were also captured.

After the successful completion of these operations, all the fighters of Islam safely returned to their bases.

Power Cut in Irbil Province

LD081151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] According to a report from the Ramadan Headquarters, the center for coordinating the irregular warfare of the IRGC Ground Forces, the forces under the command of that headquarters, in cooperation with fighting Kurdish Peshmergas from Irbil, destroyed a number of high-voltage electricity pylons along the Dukan-Irbil road and completely cut power to the town of Irbil for a number of hours.

In another intensive battle with the Zionist Iraqi forces 10 km from Irbil, five Saddamist mercenaries were killed or wounded and the forces of the regime ruling Iraq fled.

300 Iraqi Casualties in Maymak

LD081152 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] At 0530 Sunday, the brave forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran carried out a limited but completely successful attack against the 3d Battalion of the 403d Brigade of the 22d Division of the Zionist enemy in the Maymak region and killed or wounded 300 of the forces of the Zionist Iraqi regime.

According to IRNA, quoting the Western Operational Headquarters, in these operations a number of enemy troops were also captured as the result of the artillery and Katyusha fire of the forces of Islam. One 130-mm gun, one tank, eight military vehicles, and one bulldozer of the Zionist enemy were destroyed.

Communique No 3,106

LD081749 Tehran IRNA in English 1720 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 8, IRNA—An Iranian patrol unit stormed Iraqi positions in Maymak, western sector, Sunday, inflicting substantial casualties and losses on enemy troops and capturing three others before returning safely to bases, said a military communique here monday.

The 3106th Joint Staff Communique said that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded, a tank and several vehicles set ablaze and an artillery unit destroyed by 75 percent throughout the western fronts by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

In areas overlooking Mehran, Neykhazar, Kani-Sheykh and Nahr 'Anbar, western sector, Iran's Muslim combatants checked on Sunday movement of an Iraqi vehicle convoy which was escorted by two helicopters, dealing effective blows on the enemy.

Heavy artillery fire of the Muslim combatants inflicted great losses on a number of Iraqi engineering vehicles attempting to build roads, dig canals and set up barbed-wire fences in Panjwin and Mehran, northwestern and western sectors Sunday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces yesterday.

In the Strait of Hormuz, Iranian frigates intercepted 11 cargo ships and oil tankers Sunday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, concluded the communique.

Nepal

20 Arrested To Prevent Anti-Panchayat Rally

BK050156 Hong Kong AFP in English 2143 GMT 5 Feb 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 4 (AFP)—At least 20 activists of the outlawed Nepali Congress were arrested Thursday in an apparent bid to foil an anti-Panchayat public rally planned for Friday in Kathmandu centre, party sources said.

Two students were also arrested Thursday as they put up posters urging popular participation in the rally organized to denounce the suspension in December of Kathmandu Mayor Haribol Bhattarai and his deputy Tirtha Ram Gandol by the Panchayat administration on disciplinary action, the sources added.

The activists were arrested after the Nepali Congress announced plans to hold the rally at Basantpur in the center of Kathmandu Friday, the sources said, but gave no further details.

Mr. Bhattarai, Mr. Dangol, and several others from the Nepali Congress and pro-leftist parties, were suspended on disciplinary ground for having boycotted the December 16 Panchayat celebration marking the end of Nepal's first parliamentary system and introduction of the partyless policy 27 years ago.

Sources close to the local administration said they will not allow the outlawed party activists to hold the proposed public rally which aims at "denouncing the Panchayat government and the partyless system."

Arrests Increase to 100

BK060349 Hong Kong AFP in English 2044 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 5 (AFP)—Hundreds of riot police Friday cordoned off the site of a rally planned by the outlawed Nepali Congress Party in support of the suspended mayor and deputy mayor of Kathmandu town, party sources said.

Kathmandu authorities banned the meeting and arrested the former mayor, Haribol Bhattarai, and his deputy, Thirtha Ram Dangol, both members of the Nepali Congress, as they arrived at the rally site.

About 100 party activists have been arrested since late Thursday, including national Panchayat member Padma Ratna Tuladhar, party sources said.

The meeting was to be held in protest against Panchayat government action against elected heads and deputy heads of civic bodies, including Kathmandu town.

The mayor and deputy mayor were suspended six weeks ago on disciplinary charges following their boycott of December 16 celebrations marking the end of the country's parliamentary system and introduction of the partyless Panchayat system 27 years ago.

The proposed anti-Panchayat public rally was the beginning of the banned political parties' campaign against the government, the sources said.

All Detainees Released

BK061338 Hong Kong AFP in English 1327 GMT 6 Feb 88

[Text] Kathmandu, Feb 6 (AFP)-All 110 people who were arrested in advance of a scheduled demonstration against Nepal's partyless Panchayat system of government were freed Saturday, sources in the Nepali Congress Party said.

Those released included two pro-leftist Panchayat members, Jagrit Prasad Bhetwal and Padma Ratna Tuladhar, and the former vice-chancellor of Tribhuvan University, Professor Surya Bahadur Shakya.

Mr. Shakya and Mr. Tuladhar had been arrested on Thursday in an apparent bid to abort the planned public rally by the Nepali Congress and pro-leftist fronts at Basantpur, the center of Kathmandu township.

Mr Bhetwal was arrested Friday, together with the suspended mayor and deputy mayor of Kathmandu, Haribol Bhattarai and Tirtha Ram Dangol, as they came in a jeep to attend the public rally which had already been banned by the local administration that morning.

The mayor and deputy mayor were also freed Saturday, sources said.

Nepali Congress sources added that several people arrested at Lalitpur and Bhaktapur, two satellite cities of Kathmandu, were also released.

The Nepali Congress was holding discussions Saturday on what action to take following the suspension of the mayor and deputy mayor and several other pro-congress activists who boycotted Panchayat celebrations in December.

Upadhyaya on Cooperation With India on Gurkhas

BK070438 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Shailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, has said that his country is prepared for a joint patrolling of the West Bengal border and exchange of information regarding the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] with India. He told newsmen in Kathmandu today that Nepal has already intensified its security and vigilance along its eastern border. He reiterated that the Darjeeling hill area problem is an internal matter of India and Nepal will not allow its soil to be used against another country.

Pakistan

Geneva Talks on Afghanistan To Begin 2 March

BK090640 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The next round of indirect Geneva talks on Afghanistan will begin on 2 March. The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Cordovez, made this statement while addressing a news conference in Islamabad a short while ago at the end of his current visit. He said that there has been a consensus in principle on the timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He added that there still remains a minor controversy on one point, but in his opinion, it will be resolved. Cordovez said that he is leaving the region with confidence and that he is satisfied that good preparations have been made for the next round of Geneva talks. He expressed hope that this will be the final round of talks for resolving the issue.

Cordovez Briefs Ziaul Haq

BK090832 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The next round of Geneva proximity talks on Afghanistan begins on the 2d of next month. This was announced by the UN mediator on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, at a news conference in Islamabad today. He said that a virtual agreement has been reached on the question of timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan. As a result of his current shuttle, the two sides have agreed on the withdrawal of bulk of troops in the first phase of withdrawal. Mr Cordovez thanked the Government of Pakistan for the cooperation that he received in the fulfillment of his mission. This had enabled him to solve many difficulties

The UN mediator called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad this morning. He briefed the president about his talks in Kabul and the understanding reached for a comprehensive solution of the Afghanistan problem. The president expressed his appreciation for the efforts of Mr Cordovez.

Leaves Islamabad 9 Feb

BK091138 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Mr Diego Cordovez, left Islamabad today. Mr Cordovez, who arrived in Islamabad on the 20th of last month, held extensive talks with Pakistani leaders including President Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo. He will submit his report to the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar.

Karachi Situation Under Control; Curfew Relaxed

BK081556 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Feb 88

[Text] The situation in the curfew-bound areas of the Central and West Districts of Karachi remained under control today. The curfew restrictions were relaxed for 1 hour in the morning and again in the evening in six police station areas. There has been no report of any untoward incident from these areas during the curfew relaxation period.

Sporadic Incidents Noted 8 Feb

BK090244 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] A press note issued in Karachi last night says that the situation in Karachi was generally normal yesterday and that there had been no report of any major incident. However, in District-East area, a group of people set fire to a motor vehicle and damaged it. Police reached the spot, restored the traffic flow, and began investigations. Two incidents of violations of law and order in District-Central have been reported. In one incident, two persons were shot and injured and in another there was an attempt to damage a house.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene on BBC Phone-In Program

BK071602 London BBC World Service in English 1345 GMT 7 Feb 88

[Remarks by President Junius Jayewardene on "World Service Phone-In" program with moderator Nick Waddle—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Waddle] So, let us now hear from our first caller. On the line from Tangier in Morocco is Graham Steel, who starts it off, I think, Graham, with the question about the peace accord.

[Steel] Yes. Thank you. Good evening, Your Excellency.

[Jayewardene] Good evening.

[Steel] My question is this. Why has not the peace accord in the north and east of Sri Lanka been implemented? India, surely, has the responsibility of getting the guerrillas to sign a deal with your government or of allowing the Sri Lankan Army to use force to achieve peace there.

[Waddle] Over to you, Mr President.

[Jayewardene] Yes, the peace accord visualized several parties to its implementation. One was the large number of terrorists. Except one group, others have accepted it. This one group is still active and they are continuing their activities, which the Indian force is attempting with our help to suppress. That is why the accord has not been fully implemented.

[Waddle] It is understood, Mr President, is it not, that large numbers of Indian troops are presently flying into the Eastern Province, into Batticaloa, to continue what some people see as the suppression of the Tamils. Is that right?

[Jayewardene] Well, I do not know what you mean by suppression, but terrorism has to be suppressed, otherwise democratic institutions cannot function.

[Waddle] Mr Steel, does that answer your question?

[Steel] Yes, I think it does.

[Waddle] Mr President, thank you very much and thank you then, Mr Steel. I would like to move on to Vladimir Badzek who is on the line from the Yugoslavian capital, Belgrade. He points out, Mr President, that you just visited India. Last week, I think it was, you saw Mr Gandhi in New Delhi. How successful was your trip and is there is now a new resolve over the accord?

[Jayewardene] It was very successful in that we had one or two matters that needed the help of India and clarification on both sides. One was the large number of refugees—Sinhalese, Muslims, and Tamils—who had to leave, the Eastern Province particularly, owing to the action of terrorists and the reaction to their actions by the Indian peacekeeping force. So we clarified all those matters and I think we can get on much quicker and more in accord with our agreement now.

[Waddle] Was there any indication given to you by Mr Gandhi as to when he might order his troops to be withdrawn?

[Jayewardene] Their feeling is that before the end of April they should be able to silence the terrorists. They have already done that in the Jaffna Peninsula and a large portion of the Northern Province. Eastern Province still needs to be handled in that way.

[Waddle] We have a call now from West Germany, from Mr Varataraja and he also is interested in asking about the peace accord. Mr Varataraja, over to you.

[Varataraja] Yes. Good evening.

[Jayewardene] Good evening.

[Varataraja] I am Varataraja. This is my question. Do you think without the cooperation of Tamil Tigers, can you maintain peace in Northern and Eastern Provinces?

[Jayewardene] Can you maintain peace with the...

[Waddle, interrupting] Without the cooperation. You need the cooperation he is saying of the Tamil Tigers to implement the peace accord. Will you get that cooperation?

[Jayewardene] Well, that is what India is trying to secure, either by peaceful means or by nonpeaceful means.

[Waddle] Well, is there any indication just yet as to whether their cooperation will be secured?

[Jayewardene] As I said earlier I don't think they can continue their opposition beyond the end of April.

[Waddle] Mr Varataraja, can I ask you if you think that the Tamil Tigers will cooperate?

[Varataraja] Yes, I said they will cooperate [words indistinct].

[Waddle] They will cooperate?

[Varataraja] No, I don't think because the main thing is the peace accord. Nothing will happen, no? So, I think they will not cooperate because under the peace accord again they must call, and again India must call them.

[Jayewardene] If they do not cooperate, they must be defeated. They have to give up arms. They have to give up violence and they must accept the peace agreement.

[Waddle] What you are saying, Mr President, that the struggle on your side and the Indian Army side will continue until the Tamil Tigers agree to cooperate, in other words, when they are beaten.

[Jayewardene] Yes, of course.

[Waddle] Can you see how long that might take? You were talking about April. That is India's view. How long do you think?

[Jayewardene] I think it will be before that.

[Varataraja] End of the April?

[Jayewardene] Before the end of April.

[Varataraja] All right. I think without the Tigers there will be no peace in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, no?

[Jayewardene] With the Tigers there will be no peace either.

[Varataraja] President and prime minister must also again call Tigers and again they must talk with them.

[Jayewardene] We have in the agreement spelled out the democratic process, we are creating provincial council, devolving (?our powers) to them, giving them their ministers, chief ministers, and we will be having elections in April, so they can choose their leaders.

[Waddle] Well, let us talk about elections. Thank you to Mr Varataraja in West Germany. We have a call from Manila in the Philippines. It is Mr Premanathan who has a question to ask about just such a subject, elections. Mr Premanathan.

[Premanathan] Hello.

[Jayewardene] What is it you wish to ask?

[Waddle] Your question, Mr Premanathan, to the president.

[Premanathan] I am ready to ask.

[Waddle] Please go ahead.

[Premanathan] Mr President, it is an undeniable fact that over the past 40-year history of independent Sri Lanka each successive government, without exception, has been voted out of power at the general elections. You have, therefore, not held the general elections since you came to power over 10 years ago. For how long will you continue to deny the electorate its democratic right to vote in a general election?

[Jayewardene] I did not postpone the elections. That was done by the people. In only one country in the world elections can be postponed by the people and people alone. In England, in America, in India, in your country, the parliament can postpone elections. In our country our parliament cannot. It is only the people who can do it. So, I asked the people for their views. If they said they want elections, elections would have been held. By a referendum, by a majority of over a million votes they said we do not want an election. So blame them and not me.

[Waddle] Fifty-five percent, though, voted in favor of that situation. Do you consider that a suitable majority?

[Jayewardene] Fifty-three percent. That is the unique majority. In a democratic country 50 percent is unique. We had 53 percent.

[Waddle] You are convinced that there will be elections, though, this year. Can you satisfy our caller as to the extent of representation. Will everybody in Sri Lanka now be allowed to vote in a general election?

[Jayewardene] The general elections are due after August next year, not this year. I can call them any time, but I have not yet decided to do so. The president's election has to be held either late December this year or early January next year. That is according to the Constitution. The provincial council elections will be held in April. The local government elections are already being held and have been postponed owing to terrorism. [sentence as heard] So, this year is full of elections. There is a by-election to be held next month. But the Parliament

elections can be held after August next year. The president can hold them any time. I have not made up my mind when to hold them. I will do so after the provincial elections are over.

[Waddle] Let me ask Mr Premanathan then. Mr Premanathan, are you satisfied that the Sri Lankan electorate will now get a vote in the fairly near future?

[Jayewardene] We have never denied the vote.

[Premanathan] Well, the referendum (?was luckily not) the general election. In Sri Lanka many people believe that the referendum was used to subvert democracy and, therefore, many people, in fact most of the electorate, would like to have a general election.

[Jayewardene] So, they can have a general election unless they decide to postpone it.

[Waddle] And was the referendwm to subvert democracy, Mr President?

[Jayewardene] Well, according to the English dictionary, it is.

[Waddle] You have subverted democracy. You are admitting to that.

[Jayewardene] No, it is not subversion of a democracy.

[Waddle] You are saying that this was a democratic referendum and that the majority of the country agreed to that situation and you will now decide as it is your right as president as to when the next elections will be.

[Jayewardene] That is right.

[Waddle] I like to move on to Sri Lanka itself. We have a call from Bernard Witodoro, and I think he is concerned about the presence of foreign troops in his country. Mr Witodoro, your question.

[Witodoro] Mr President, what would Your Excellency consider the differences, if any, between the presence of foreign troops in Afghanistan and Kampuchea on the one hand, and the presence of Indian troops in Sri Lanka on the other?

[Jayewardene] In Sri Lanka, the foreign troops came here at my invitation and they will go when I request them to go. That's the difference.

[Witodoro] In Afghanistan and Kampuchea, too, the guest as well as the host say that they have their presence at the invitation of the host and just before signing the agreement with India, we were advised that one of the reasons for the agreement was the air drop of military supplies to the north, which was a warning saying that if you don't invite us, we will march in. So, in this situation [words indistinct].

[Jayewardene] That is not correct. You are imagining things.

[Witodoro] Mr President, it was stated that one of the reasons for the invitation of the Indian forces was the fact that if we don't invite they would have come in anyway.

[Jayewardene] Inviting or not, they have the strength and the power to come in.

[Waddle] Were you afraid that they might come in, Mr President?

[Jayewardede] They are here now.

[Waddle] Yes, but were you afraid that if you hadn't made the deal with the Indians, the Indian Government might have decided that in any case it needed to take control of the situation on its doorstep in Sri Lanka?

[Jayewardene] I don't think they would have come in, but they can help the terrorists, which is worse.

[Waddle] So, rather than have that situation, you invited them in legitimately.

[Jayewardene] That was one of the reasons. Yes.

[Waddle] Mr Witodoro, are you concerned about Sri Lanka's sovereignty in this issue?

[Witodoro] Yes, We believe that the invitation that was extended to India was not an invitation made by one's own free will, but under duress and under a threat of imminent Indian invasion. So that what we now face is a fait accompli achieved by threats and intimidation. In that it, therefore, does not differ in any way between the presence in Kampuchea and in Afghanistan.

[Waddle] Mr President?

[Jayewardene] Yes, when a country is at war—we were at war with the terrorists, it was becoming a major war itself, spending large sums of money, our people being killed, buying of ammunition and boats and armaments, it was becoming a major war. Any country in that situation has to face new problems. It's not only Sri Lanka. When India had some problem with China in the northeast, they called for help from America and America sent its bombers and its men and its money. When England had problems with Germany, they called for help from America and American bombers and people are still in the United Kingdom. So, what is there in small Sri Lanka asking for help against a deadly and merciless foe?

[Waddle] There is no consideration in your mind is there, Mr President, that having invited India in once, you may be compelled to allow India always a say in Sri Lanka's affairs?

[Jayewardene] I don't think so. I don't think that will happen.

[Waddle] Mr Witodoro, thank you very much for your call. We are moving now to Kingston in Canada where Mr Mohammad Mustafa has a question about Tamil autonomy. Mr Mustafa, your question to the president.

[Mustafa] Would Your Excellency consider to give the Tamil Tigers some form of autonomy provided that the Tamils renounce violence and agree to abide by an agreement, perhaps supervised by the United Nations?

[Jayewardene] The agreement that I signed with Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi contains all that autonomy.

[Waddle] Mr Mustafa, are you satisfied with that?

[Mustafa] Well, my very concern is that the recent developments have shown that the Tamil Tigers are going to be a force in the Jaffna Peninsula. Now would the president think that the agreement with India solved this problem in the long run?

[Jayewardene] Well, the Tamil Tigers have been defeated in the Jaffna Peninsula. They have retreated to the Eastern Province and I think they will be defeated there too. [passage omitted]

[Waddle] We move on to Helen Tate in Berlin, who has a question about the Tamil Tigers. Over to you, Helen.

[Tate] Well, President Jayewardene. First, congratulations for surviving your 10 difficult years in office. I would like to know if the wish of the Tamil Tigers for a separate state is shared by the majority of Tamils, and what are the chief factors that make it impossible for that to be granted?

[Jayewardene] Well, I don't think the people of Sri Lanka of all races are, by and large, for a separate state in a very small area of a very small country like Sri Lanka. So the question does not arise. Now, all the other terrorists have given up and only one—the Tigers—remain clinging to it, which is a lost cause.

[Waddle] Helen Tate, does that satisfy you?

[Tate] Well, yes, I just thought that perhaps if they could be given the opportunity to have the separate state then they would find it does not work, and that might stop the bloodshed.

[Waddle] Is a separate state a possibilty?

[Jayewardene] There would be more bloodshed then because the rest of the island won't accept it.

[Waddle] It has never been a possibility, has it, Mr President?

[Jayewardene] No. Sri Lanka has been a unitary state from time immemorial, since the 6th century B.C., so it can never be, in the future either, a separate state.

[Waddle] But might it have been a talking point? Might it at one time have been a possibility to avert all this problem?

[Jayewardene] I don't think so, I think it would have led to much more trouble [words indistinct] cause so much trouble. If we give a separate area, that will be, I think, impossible to control.

[Tate] And so are the Tamil Tigers. Do they represent the only group now that you have trouble with?

[Jayewardene] That is right, in the north and east, yes.

[Waddle] We are moving on to a call from here in London. Paul Zieghart is on the line and Mr Zieghart your question is about peole who, I think, have disappeared. Would you like to address it to President Jayewardene?

[Zieghart] Good evening, Mr President. I want to ask you about disappearances, that is to say, people who have been arrested by the security forces and then they are never seen again except occasionally by other prisoners who have seen them in an army camp or who, perhaps, have seen them being tortured—or report that they have. This now seems to me only too well authenticated by the United Nations. Now, Mr President, you and I met last in Colombo 4 years ago, you may remember, and I was then on a mission about human rights and I was promised by everyone that this kind of thing would not happen, and yet it seems to have happened to over 600 people. What, Mr President, has your government done since the accord—and of course, it is marvelous that you have reached that accord, and you are certainly to be congratulated on that—well, what has your government done to find these people and to tell their relatives what has happened to them?

[Jayewardene] I am replying only with regard to events after the agreement. What happened earlier you seem to be aware of and they have now been remedied. But after the agreement, in the north and the east, the military operations are conducted by the Indian peacekeeping force, and I have not heard that any people have disappeared and that they do not know where they are. In the south the question does not arise because there is not that problem. So, if you come to Sri Lanka now, I think you will be satisfied with what is happening now.

[Waddle] Mr President, what happened about the 600 who disappeared after 1984 and before the accord?

[Jayewardene] Well, I must look up that. I am not aware of it.

[Waddle]] You have just said that that matter has been cleared up.

[Jayewardene] I was not talking specifically of the 600. I don't know how the questioner got those figures, but I will certainly look it up.

[Zieghart] Well, Mr President, I can tell you the Working Group on Forced or Involuntary Disappearances of the United Nations has reported that over 600 people have disappeared and only about 14 cases have been cleared up right up to now. Where are those other people?

[Jayewardene] I will certainly look it up.

[Waddle] Mr President, is it possible that there has been what one might call an Argentine situation in Sri Lanka over the last 3-4 years?

[Jayewardene] What is an Argentine situation?

[Waddle] Where people are arrested or disappear in the night and are not heard of again, and the requests of relatives are not met with satisfactory answers.

[Jayewardene] No, I don't think that is a good comparison at all. We have our courts functioning, we have Parliament functioning, we have a free press without any restrictions or censorship functioning, we have a very active opposition, and we open our doors to the world's press.

[Zieghart] Mr President, the trouble is if the relatives don't know where these people have been taken, there is nothing they can do. They cannot go to the courts, they cannot go to the police. If they go to the police they are told: Oh, we don't know anything about them.

[Jayewardene] They can take it up in Parliament, they can apply by way of habeas corpus. And I will certainly look up the 600 you mention.

[Zieghart] Well, please do because those are authentic United Nations figures I am afraid.

[Waddle] Thank you, Mr Zieghart, I think we have asked the president enough on that particular issue. I am sure it is the one which will not go away. But, for the moment we should move on to Dr Brian Silvaratne in Australia, who is also concerned with human rights issues. Doctor, put your question, please, to the president.

[Silvaratne] Mr President, if the militant Tamils are committing human rights violations, why does your government continue to deny free access to the international media personnel, Amnesty International, and the International Red Cross? I stress the words free access, and not conducted tours.

[Jayewardene] They have free access.

[Waddle] The press is allowed anywhere in Sri Lanka that one wishes to go, Mr President?

[Jayewardene] Anywhere, except to the executioner.

[Waddle] Does it have to seek permission in advance?

[Jayewardene] Correct.

[Waddle] To travel to any area in Sri Lanka?

[Jayewardene] No, no, no, no.

[Waddle] Journalists are quite pleased to travel about.

[Jayewardene] For their safety may seek...

[Waddle, interrupting] And what about Amnesty International? Are they allowed to travel?

[Jayewardene] Oh yes, certainly.

[Waddle] Allowed into prisons?

[Jayewardene] Yes.

[Waddle] Even though it is operated by the Indian troops in the east and north?

[Jayewardene] That we have to ask them also, but we have no objection.

[Waddle] So, the Indian Government has also allowed in access of organizations like Amnesty?

[Jayewardene] In the areas where they have their troops functioning, yes.

[Waddle] Thank you very much. Thank you for your question, Dr Silvaratne. [passage omitted]

[Waddle] What I would like to do now is to move on to our next questioner who is in West Berlin. He is Mr Bala Subramaniam who is a refugee from Sri Lanka and he is simply asking if we refugees return home, can you guarantee our safety? Is that what you want to know, Mr Subramaniam?

[Subramaniam] Yes, yes that is my question. Mr Jayewardene, I am living as a refugee for the last 7 years in West Berlin. And you know my homeland is my paradise and I would like to come back again, but I don't see any chance because you have not repealed the sixth amendment of the Constitution, which does not guarantee for me to come back. Even if I come back, I will face most serious charges and my neighbor can file an action against me and send me to prison. So far you have failed to fulfill your own peace agreement. How can you guarantee me to come back to my own country, my homeland, my paradise.

[Jayewardene] Where do you live?

[Subramaniam] Please?

[Jayewardene] Where do you live?

[Subramanian] My homeland is Jaffna, my Northern Province.

[Jayewardene] Why did you leave?

[Subramaniam] Because of the atrocities of your armed forces.

[Jayewardene] Why did the armed forces come there?

[Subramaniam] Please? Because they were looking for terrorists and they were driving out all the innocent people.

[Jayewardene] Terrorists are your countrymen.

[Subramaniam] No, they are not my countrymen and you have made us terrorists. You have been making all the Tamils in the Northern Province, all the young men have become terrorists and took arms because of your armed forces were making atrocities in my homeland.

[Jayewardene] Armed forces cannot come there unless there is an emergency—emergency declared because the Tamil terrorists took to arms. So, if you ask your people to give up their arms, the problem is solved.

[Subramaniam] Why did the Tamil people, Tamil young people took the arms into their hands because they were really proud of their rights?

[Jayewardene] Because they are terrorists. Are there any rights that were denied?

[Subramaniam] Yes, we were deprived of all our rights in our own country.

[Jayewardene] What are the rights that were denied?

[Subramaniam] Yes, we had no access to the government jobs, and we had no access to the universities, and we had no right to speak our own language.

[Jayewardene] The chief justice is a Tamil.

[Subramaniam] Yes, you can refer to one or two people, but we are 3 million people.

[Jayewardene] One by one that you count them.

[Subramaniam] No, you cannot say like that. Can I speak? Can I read a Tamil newspaper in the southern part of Sri Lanka? Can I read a newspaper in Galle?

[Jayewardene] Why not? You can read in [word indistinct]

[Subramaniam] No, I cannot read it in public, I cannot read it in a normal way.

[Jayewardene] It is your fault.

[Waddle] Mr Subramaniam. I think we will leave it at that point. I think we have a lot of callers and while we appreciate your question on this matter, we do have to keep the program under some control if that is all right with you. [passage omitted]

[Waddle] Brindli Fernando in Paris wants to talk again about the peace accord. Mr Fernando, your question to the president please.

[Fernando] Hello.

[Waddle] Yes, please ask your question.

[Fernando] Mr President, this is Brindli Fernando from Paris.

[Jayewardene] Good evening.

[Fernando] Good evening. You have signed a peace accord with the Indian prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, last year without consulting the members of your own Cabinet or the Sri Lankan Parliament. Subsequently, you had forced them to vote in favor of this bill in Parliament. Don't you think this is against the basic principles of democracy?

[Jayewardene] Well, if I have forced anybody in the Cabinet or in Parliament to do what they did not wish to do, it is wrong. But there has been no force used. Cabinet doesn't act on force.

[Fernando] Well, but a few days before this bill was presented in Parliament, your prime minister, Mr R. Premadasa, spoke at the UN vehemently against the peace accord, against India, and against you. But, as soon as he returned to Sri Lanka, he was silenced and voted in favor of this bill. In addition, there were two of your ministers who resigned recently showing signs of disagreement.

[Jayewardene] Yes, those who were against resigned. Anybody who spoke against and ultimately voted you must ask him why he did it.

[Fernando] Yes. But how is it that your prime minister, who once spoke against the peace accord, voted in favor this bill in Parliament?

[Jayewardene] Well, he must have thought that he will do so.

[Fernando] But there is a general feeling that Sri Lanka is no longer a democratic country since the concentration of power under the new Constitution is in an executive president. The Parliament and the judiciary have no power.

[Waddle] Do you deny that, Mr President?

[Jayewardene] That's absurdness.

[Fernando] Well, there has been lot of interference in the judiciary.

[Jayewardene] Is that so? I have not heard of it.

[Fernando] This is the general impression in Sri Lanka.

[Jayewarde] No, you mean in Germany, not in Sri Lanka. I am not responsible for public opinion in Germany.

[Waddle] Mr Fernando, thank you very much for your question. Thank you there, Mr President.

[Jayewardene] I am sorry, he is from Paris, isn't he?

[Waddle] Mr Brindli Fernando, yes, I think he was in Paris. He was in France. The problem is that there are many refugees from your country in Europe and they do have these views, and clearly this program partly, of course, being able to let them put some directly to you. So, obviously, we appreciate your answers. That is the concern that has been expressed—I think quite largely—through this program. I like to move on now to our next questioner. I think he is Mr P. Ravindran in Grenoble, who also has a question about the Tamils. Mr P. Ranvindran, would you give your question please to the president.

[Ravindran] Good evening, J.R.

[Jayewardene] Good evening.

[Ravindran] When the then prime minister, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike, offered the Tamils a substantial degree of devolution of power, you protested against this and marched from Colombo to Kandy. Eventually, S.W.R.D. Bandaranaike unable to face the opposition to the fact, he couldn't implement that. Now you are offering the Tamils, almost the same which you opposed about 30 years ago, even though it is too late and too little after thousands of Tamils were killed. For argument sake, we say that Tamils agreed to cooperate with you. How the Tamils can trust the other Sinhalese parties, which are opposed to this devolution of power, won't scuttle this by a two-third majority in the future?

[Waddle] Mr President, can you answer that?

[Jayewardene] Yes, please. Can I ask him one question: What is his age now?

[Ravindran] I am 34 years old and I was earlier working in Sri Lanka and presently I am working in France.

[Jayewardene] So, 34 years old now. Thirty years ago you were 4 years old, so you could not remember what happened when you were 4 years old.

[Ravindran] It is a history, you know.

[Jayewardene] What you say is not quite correct. Mr Bandaranaike wanted the north and the east join permanently. So we opposed it. Now we say it is joined until the east decides whether they should continue or not. Rest of your questions were based on facts, which you have got from outsider and not from your own knowledge because you were in the cradle then.

[Waddle] Mr P. Ravindran, are you happy with that response?

[Ravindran] No, no. Still he didn't answer. Okay, if he doesn't want to answer the question, if he wants to dodge the question, I mean, okay, at least he could answer this one.

[Jayewardene] I haven't dodged any question.

[Ravindran] At least he could answer this one. How can we trust the other Sinhalese parties won't turn down by a two-third majority in the future?

[Waddle] Mr President?

[Jayewardene] Yes.

[Waddle] Sri Lanka has a parliamentary democracy and the Tamils are clearly worried about their representation.

[Jayewardene] Question of trust is a matter that you cannot ask a question and answer it. But now under the new provincial councils the north and the east have a considerable amount of autonomy. They have their own ministers, board of ministers, and they can function under the devolution, which is very, very wide.

[Waddle] Mr P. Ravindran, I think that answers your question to a certain extent. Thank you very much for that, Mr President. I like to move on to a question from Amman, Mr Raja Gopalan, who has a question about your former finance minister, Mr Ronnie de Mel, and some suggest that he [word indistinct] before he resigned. Mr Gopalan, please ask your question.

[Gopalan] Good evening, Mr President.

[Jayewardene] Good evening.

[Gopalan] Mr De Mel had created the reputation for himself as a very moderate and realistic leader. His recent effort to establish a bond with the Sri Lankan

extremists and the right, has this led to his ousting as finance minister? Is this not a setback? Will not this polarize opinion rather than bring them together as Mr De Mel appears to have attempted? Why is his resignation and why is his suggestion for an election so repugnant? The time may not be ripe, but the suggestion itself appears to an outsider to be wholly desirable.

[Jayewardene] I don't think you got the situation correctly. Mr De Mel made a number of statements. But the statement on which he resigned was he disclosed how he voted on a Cabinet issue and criticized a Cabinet decision. It is a principle of Cabinet solidarity that you cannot disclose the way ministers voted, so he was asked to resign.

[Waddle] Mr Gopalan, you are happy with that?

[Gopalan] Well, I thought that his resignation was due to his asking for election.

[Jayewardene] No, not at all.

[Waddle] Thank you for that call from Amman. Let us move on to Mr John Chakola in India and who is talking about the Sri Lankan economy. Mr President, take a question please from Mr Chakola.

[Chakola] Mr President, soon after you came into power in the seventies, the world found in Sri Lanka the emergence of a new and dynamic economy in the areas of trade, industry, and tourism. The series of events that followed have paralyzed that process. How optimistic are you, Mr President, in being able to bring your country back into that wonderful situation?

[Jayewardene] Well, the new economic policies we followed in 1977 are no longer new. They are now almost 10 to 12 years old. But they are dynamic. They have been in some ways prevented from being dynamic by the war that is going on in the north and the east and in the south in some parts, where the extra expenditure we were to incur and all the problems arising of this violence. Otherwise, it is still dynamic and we hope to resume our dynamism in a few months.

[Waddle] Do you have any suggestions, Mr Chakola?

[Chakola] Do you still think the international business community is as eager to invest in Sri Lanka as they were in those years?

[Jayewardene] The what community?

[Waddle] The international business community. Are they eager investors in Sri Lanka as they used to be?

[Jayewardene] Not since 1983, but they are getting interested now.

[Waddle] Satisfactory enough or is there a long way to go before enough interest is expressed?

[Jayewardene] What?

[Waddle] I am just concerned about the extent to which people are becoming interested. You said they are becoming interested again.

[Jayewardene] Yes, from 1983 this north-east problem became very acute. But, as it subsides, we can see the interest from the applications for investment, the number of tourists had come in and generally awakening of the whole economy.

[Waddle] Thank you very much for that answer and Mr Chakola for your question. [passage omitted]

Violent Incidents in Colombo Area Noted

BK090336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 9 Feb 88

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a member of parliament, Mr (Mevin Kure), was critically injured and two others shot dead by gunmen at Panadura, 27 km south of Colombo last night. Police sources told our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumder, that gunmen opened fire killing Mr Kure's driver on the spot and injuring three others. The police set up road blocks and check points immediately after the shoot out while suspected members of the proscribed JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna] ran away. A businessman from Matara was also stabbed to death yesterday.

Meanwhile, a member of Teros, Haran, who was detained by the Sri Lankan authorities from Batticaloa on a charge of planting a bomb in Colombo hotel 4 years ago, was handed over to the peacekeeping force's custody yesterday.